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A comprehensive history of the

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

By

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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The author has compiled and presented an excellent biography of the oldest known Pratt progenitor; Henry Pratt of Greene County, Tennessee.

It is my hope that this will serve as a template for others to record and report on their ancestry.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

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PREFACE

I embarked on the journey of genealogy research to fulfill the requirements of my church. After 28 years of researching Henry Pratt and descendants, I had resigned myself to die without knowing the origin of Henry Pratt's ancestry. I was looking for Henry Pratt the Englishman, and like so many researchers before me, found a dead end with no leads and concluded there were no answers.

I visited the land, studied the vital records and resources in the areas where he lived. Greene, Monroe and surrounding counties of Tennessee as well as Crawford, Washington, Franklin and surrounding counties of Missouri. These records were little to nonexistent. It was as if Henry Pratt sprang from the hills of Tennessee like a cold water spring...origin unknown.

All my other family lines were either early pioneers in America or had their origins in Europe.

I felt that finding the truth about the Pratts was hopeless and in my despair...I gave up looking.

I concentrated my efforts on the Blantons, Carters, Harmons, Kimberlings, Johnsons and 1000 other surnames, accumulating information on 20,000+ people and their ancestors who lived in Crawford, Washington, Franklin and surrounding counties of Missouri.

In September of 2001, I began my pilgrimage to the annual Pratt Family Reunion in Bourbon, Missouri and left my Bradenton, Florida home on Highway 75 to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Taking Highway 24 through Nashville into Kentucky, I was trying to decide if I should go north through Paducah or turn west on highway 60 to 57 in Missouri catching Interstate 55 North. For some reason I felt compelled to take the latter and I didn't know why. I now realize turning west on highway 60 was not only the turning point on my journey but also in my research.

There is a saying in our church; "Do all you can do and the Lord will open doors".

North of Cape Girardeau on Interstate 55 at 7am in the morning I saw a sign on the side of the road, which read, "Trail of Tears Historic National Park". (See page 88) I told Bonnie, "Hey look, let's go see the park." She had been sleeping and didn't care one way or another. I have traveled that route over the years but I never noticed the sign before, nor had a desire or interest to go investigate any Indian antiquities.

I turned off the highway and followed the signs for what seemed a long drive and arrived at the park as the sun was peeking over the treetops. The park was open but the visitor's center was closed until 9am. After driving all night, we decided to sleep in the car until it opened and at 9:20 we awoke and went in to stretch our legs and see the museum.

As I entered the visitor's center and museum, a strange familiar feeling came over me and I sensed that this place was important. The walls were covered with paintings and murals of the history of the Trail of Tears and the plight of the Cherokee Indians. There were artifacts enclosed in glass cases and a full replica of an oxcart and covered wagon.

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As I walked from exhibit to exhibit I felt a peaceful reverence descend upon me. My intellect became confused as a small soft voice said, "What you thought you knew about the Pratts... was only half the truth."

I felt that I was reading and learning something new and completely opposite of what I thought I knew. I realized that I was under the influence of the Holy Ghost and was being taught a new way of thinking. I didn't want to leave this peaceful place, reminiscent of the peaceful and spiritual feelings I experienced in the Mormon temples.

I purchased several books about the Cherokees and the Trail of Tears and learned that the Trail had crossed the Mississippi River at the point where the park was located. As I walked through the park, I felt that I was on hallowed ground and came to the realization the history of the Cherokee people needed further study.

Reluctantly, we left and as we drove up to St. Clair, where my father lived, I was unsure of what I thought I knew about Henry Pratt and a deep humility came over me. Usually I am a very gregarious person, in fact known by some as a motor mouth but during the rest of the trip I seldom spoke and it was because I felt I had just learned something new about the Pratts and I wasn't sure what it was.

A door had been opened...and I stepped through.

I began to search my memory and I faintly remembered something in my past research that someone, somewhere spoke about the Pratts and Indians. I remembered my great Aunt Eula (**RICHARDSON**) Pratt telling the story of the Blanton who shot an Indian. But I never put much credence in those stories.

When I arrived at the family reunion, I didn't have much to say to anyone and after driving over 1000 miles this was unusual for me. After my visit to the Trail of Tears Park, I felt disturbed and confused and unsure of the identity of Henry Pratt.

I humbly asked several of the old Pratts at the reunion if they had ever heard of stories about the Pratts and Indians. Their response surprised me and at least a half a dozen people told me Indian tales. Virginia Gay (**PRATT**) Slankard told me that her mother, Eula said the Pratts were Choctaw Indians.

Intrigued now more than ever, I couldn't wait to get back home and pursue this investigation into the histories of the Cherokee Indian tribes.

Two years later and with over 40 books about the Trail of Tears and the Cherokee people under my belt, and after accessing over 100 resources, I began to put the pieces together and a picture of Henry Pratt took shape as a Cherokee native.

This book is a testimony of that research and investigation.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2003

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FORWARD

I started the Pratt Progenitor Papers in 1990 and after 10 volumes decided to engage a new format. The present format of the **PPP** consists of pedigree charts, family group sheets, notes and documentation with little supposition.

Under the format of the **PPP**, other than basic facts, figuring out who did what or what was the political atmosphere surrounding the individuals was an arduous task.

Various families are represented in each of the volumes of the **PPP** including the first generation of children.

As a researcher's toolbox of facts, presented in a chronological order, the **PPP** is priceless.

In order to address the political, financial, and philosophical times these ancestors lived, I have formed a new format focusing on single families and descendants. This new series I call the...

Pratt Archive Collections

This series concentrates on a family and reports on that particular family and collateral families. The report is a "cradle to grave" (C2G) presentation taking in the circumstances of worldly events.

This series is a comprehensive report and encompasses all the information that we have in our archives about that particular family.

Coupled with documentation, newspaper articles, pictures, and legal information concerning birth, death, marriages, occupations, migration patterns, domicile locations and interment information, this series should be a valuable source of information into the physique of our ancestors and their lives.

This report on "**Henry Pratt Family of Greene County, Tennessee**" is the first of this series to be completed.

We discover who Henry Pratt could have been, may have been, and who he really was.

We answer questions about his decisions, his children's decisions and why we are who we are.

It is my desire to instill an inspiration for other researchers to write about their families by studying the history of the world in order to understand the decisions, choices, and circumstances that led their ancestors to do the things they did.

Through the study and research process, you will not only find out the identity of your ancestors...but you will discover the reasons behind their choices and decisions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the period of twenty-eight years of family research, my path has crossed and paralleled many fellow researchers.

We have shared information and by accumulating researched facts, I have been able to produce this body of work.

I would like to acknowledge these additional contributors.

With their contributions and assistance this body of work was able to take shape and evolve into a great work.

- Floyd Theodore **PRATT**, (1927-), 2ggson of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.
- Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) **REED** (1924-2010) Mabel's husband Harvey John Reed is the 2ggson of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.
- Julia Mae (**HARMON**) **BLANTON** (1930-2005) Julia's husband Roy Lewis **BLANTON** is the 2ggson of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.
- Malinda Irene (**HULSEY**) **MURDICK** (1917-2006) Irene is the 2ggdaughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.
- Byron **NELSON** 2ggson of Henry & Susan (**PRATT**) Hansel.
- Jewell Miranda (**HANSEL**) 3ggdaughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.
- Mary Alice (**STATLER**) Blaylock (1936-) 3ggdaughter of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton. Wife of Donald Ray Statler.
- Dolly (**STUDDARD**) Lahmann (1915-2001) 2ggdaughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt. Wife of Chester Lahmann.

Every effort has been taken to ensure this report contains factual and proven data. You may find errors but this is due to improper or incorrect information and is unintentional.

Female birth surnames names are in caps **bold** (parentheses).

"In pursuit of my ancestors, I have found myself"

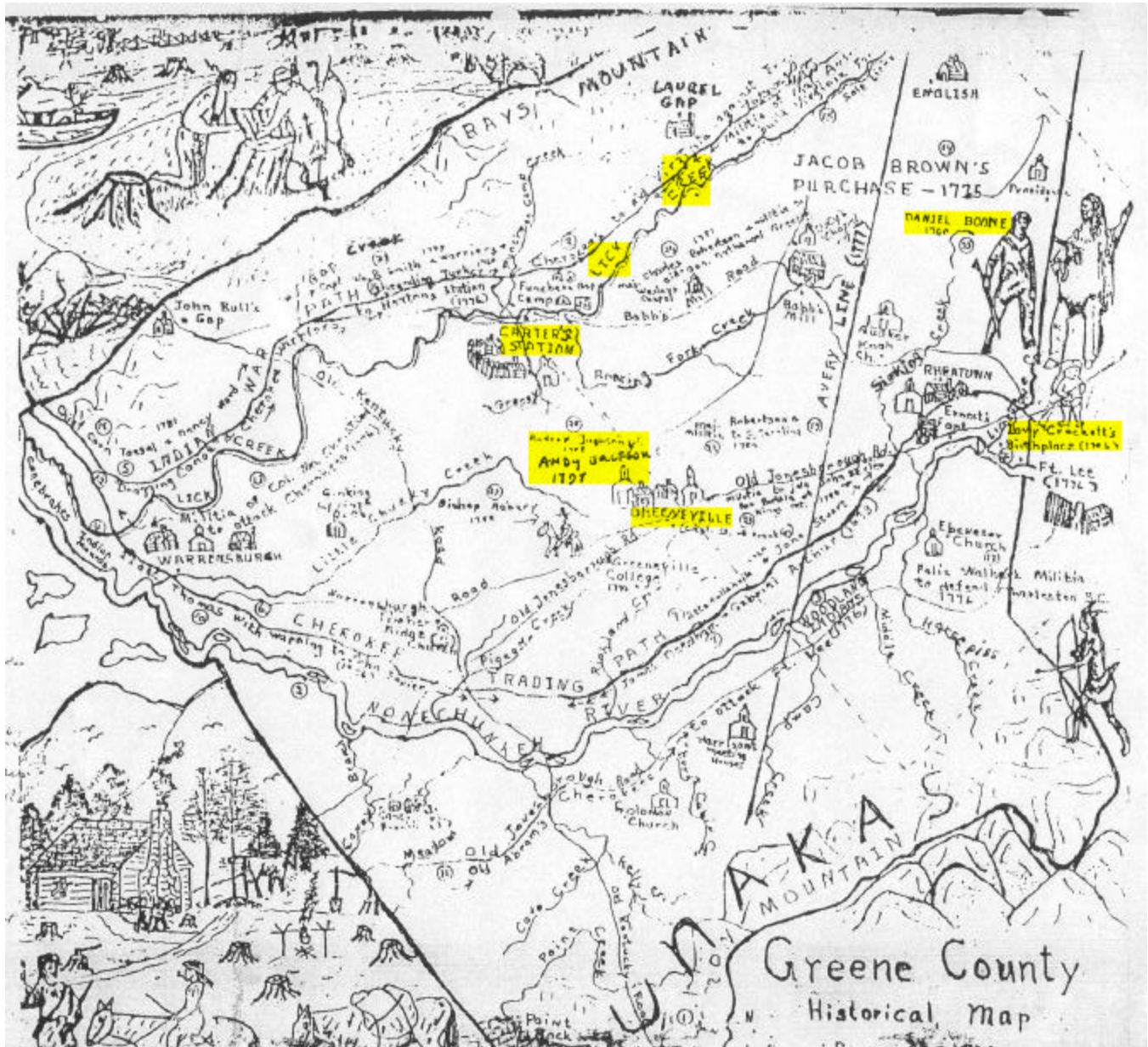
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The journey begins.

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GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE PRE-1800'S



Map from "Olden Times of Greene County, Tennessee" Vol 1 & Vol 2 by Harry Roberts.

Notice the birthplace of Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone's settlement and Andrew Jackson's birthplace. Also, President Andrew Johnson was born in Greeneville, TN.

Greeneville is the county seat of Greene County.

Notice Carter's Station where the Carter's settled in the 1780's on Lick Creek.

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EMIGRATION

Before we begin, let's take a look at the migration patterns of the pioneers during the 1700's.

Most emigrants to the United States came by way of Europe. They landed on the eastern ports of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Baltimore. The French when landing in the United States favored New Orleans.

Upon entering the country, those with financial means usually bought property and started to conduct business. Whether they were farmers, merchants, prospectors, frontiersmen, politicians or had military careers each had a dream of prosperity for their families and a better way of life, regardless of who occupied the land previously to their arrival.

Shortly after the white race discovered this country, various worldly governments¹ contrived a plan with the intention of removing the natives from *their* homeland. They began by planting seeds of deception, false promises, treachery and war. Unending cycles of trespasses led to conflicts, bloodshed, and genocide resulting in defeat for the natives followed by land confiscation through worthless treaties.

In violation of each treaty, settlers were encouraged by their governments to settle on Indian lands to establish homes, communities, territories and states and in the process any conflicts that arose between the trespassers and the natives would be blamed on the Native Americans.

The Natives were encouraged to wage war upon each other with the help of the French, Spanish, British and later the American governments. If the Natives would not fight each other, the European governments forced them to choose sides and fight in *their* wars.

Prior to the white man's influence, the southeastern native tribes rarely waged war upon each other. Their time was spent in trade, games, hunting and agricultural pursuits.

Because of the above pursuits, thousands of years produced well-traveled trails from one end of the territory to the other and it was by these great Indian trails that most of America's highways have been built.

Getting from Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Baltimore to the western boundaries of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee was limited by the terrain and accessibility of trails that the Indians had used for travel.

One of these important highways of travel was the Great Indian Warpath. This trail began at Philadelphia and followed the Cumberland Mountains down the Clinch River and ended at what is now Chattanooga², Tennessee.

This and other trails moved large amounts of pioneers from the east to the west and some of our ancestors were part of that migration.

¹ French, English, Spanish, Mexican.

² Named after Chatanuga Mountain later renamed Lookout Mountain.

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HENRY PRATT SR. OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Greene County, Tennessee is the first place we pick up on Henry Pratt Sr.

There is some confusion as to who is this Henry Pratt?

The Henry Pratt Sr. we are talking about and the Henry Pratt with a sister named Cynthia (**PRATT**) may have been related and maybe not.

Henry Pratt married Nancy (**CARTER**) in Greene County, TN.³ His sister, Cynthia (**PRATT**) married Abraham Absalom Blanton also in Greene County, TN.⁴

Since the census records of eastern Tennessee were destroyed, we do not have any reliable census records until the 1830's.

Without census records to help track Sr's movement, we are blind to his previous whereabouts.

We know Sr. was in Greene Co., TN in the 1820's. There is documental evidence available to us in the court documents.

In the Greene Co., TN court records for 26 Oct 1819⁵, we have the court stating as follows:

"Ordered by the court that HENRY PRATT SENR. be allowed the sum of forty dollars for one year from the present term of this court and it is further considered and ordered by the court that ten dollars of said allowance be paid at this time by the trustee of Greene County and that 30\$ of said allowance be paid quarterly from January sessions next to said PRATT by the trustee aforesaid provided said PRATT shall be alive at the time that said quarters allowances may become due and payable. " Tuesday 26th October 1819.

This encompasses several elements. First of all, it states that Henry Pratt Sr. due to illness or infirmity was in no condition to provide support for himself. Further, it states that the court so ordered this payment based on his longevity. This means he was in a bad way financially and physically.

Also, they refer to him as Senior, which implies there was a junior or another Henry Pratt in the area. To avoid confusion, this man could not have been Henry Pratt who married Nancy (**CARTER**) because our Henry was 19/24 years old by 1819.

In the following year there is a mention of a road boundary near Henry Pratt's old place near Greeneville.⁶

³ Greene Co., TN, Marriage Book "A" Page 2207 (3 Oct 1820) FHL#944386

⁴ Greene Co., TN, Marriage Book "A", Page 390 (16 Apr 1825) FHL#944386

⁵ Greene County, Tennessee Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas & Quarter Session Green Co., TN 1817-1819, by Sandra Kelton Houston (1981) Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, Page 468

⁶ Greene County, Tennessee Minutes of the Court of Common Pleas & Quarter Session Green Co., TN 1820-1822, by Sandra Kelton Houston (1981) Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, Page 40

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This proves he had a residence near Greeneville, Greene Co., TN. Referring to his home as an “old place”, infers age. Possibly, his residence may have been around for a long time. However, checking the deed records of Greene Co., TN does not produce a deed for any Henry Pratt⁷.

However, there was a Henry Pratt who bought 75 acres from James Greenleaf in Georgia on 18 July 1797.⁸ He also had James Greenleaf sell those acres.⁹ Who *this* Henry Pratt is we can only surmise.

Instead of going forward from 1820 Greene Co., TN let's take a step backward and see if we can find out where this Henry Pratt “Sr” came from.

HENRY PRATT WHO?

No eastern Tennessee census survived for 1800, 1810 & 1820 except a few counties. This puts us at a severe disadvantage because we do not have census records from that area.

The way I see it, there are 3 possibilities.

1. The Henry Pratt of 1810 census of Washington Co., Virginia
2. The Henry Pratt of Talbot Co., Maryland
3. The Henry Pratt of Rockingham Co., North Carolina

HENRY PRATT OF 1810 CENSUS OF WASHINGTON CO., VA.

Back in 1992, William Hurley Jr. from Virginia wrote to me asking me for information concerning the Pratts in Tennessee. He stated he was collecting information about the Pratts and knew nothing of the Tennessee or Missouri connections.

Unknowing to me, he was preparing a book on the “Pratt Families of Virginia”¹⁰ and used my information in his book without my permission.

He said he was a descendant of the Henry Pratt of the 1810 Washington Co., VA census and thought my line may be connected.

I investigated the census data and concluded that Henry Jr. and Cynthia might be children of this Henry Pratt of 1810 Washington Co., VA. I saw a possibility.

However, I informed Mr. Hurley not to use my data without me checking further.

⁷ In fact, the first land entry for any Pratt in Greene County took place in 1825 for a Constant Pratt and that was a land grant. Most of the Pratts in Greene County did not or were not allowed to purchase land.

⁸ “American State Papers”, State of Georgia, Volume 1, page 206.

⁹ “American State Papers”, State of Georgia, Volume 2, page 807.

¹⁰ “Pratt Families of Virginia”, by William Hurley Jr., Heritage Books, Inc (1996)

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I now regret, sending him large packets of data, which he used in his book in Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

When he compiled his book, he left out pertinent information and did not do any research to verify that data. He does acknowledge that I sent him the information in his book¹¹.

In Chapter 5 on page 28, of his book, he acknowledges another researcher who sent him some information about the Henry Pratt of the 1810 census.

*“Angelynn McCrary, a lineal descendant of William Henry Pratt (1815), one of the known sons of Oliver and Mary (**FULKS**) Pratt noted In her letter, that she had "always understood" that Oliver was married twice, and that his father was Henry Pratt, who was born in Scotland and immigrated to America, **finally settling** in southwest Virginia.*

Dr. Williams and his wife suggest that Henry, father of Oliver, moved into Washington County, Virginia about 1780, when he was in his teens, from New England. They state that evidence indicates that his father was dead and that his mother was remarried, possibly to a Wheeler or a Dennison. Their report contained no information relative to the source of these suppositions, and Dr. Joe Williams has since died, but the information is repeated here for further evaluation.”

CENSUS: 1810 Washington County, VA, page 210:			
HENRY PRATT			
Ages	Free white males		Free white females
9 & under	= Unknown son	9 & under	= Unknown female
10-15	= Henry Jr. Age 10?	9 & under	= Unknown female
45 & over	= Henry Sr. Age 45?	9 & under	= Unknown female
		9 & under	= Unknown female
		10-15	= Cynthia Ann age 10?
		26-44	= Unknown female

However, after careful consideration, I now feel that the Henry Pratt of the 1810 census **is not** the same Henry Pratt Sr. of Greene Co., TN.

The following pages contain my research and evaluation.

¹¹ “Pratts Families of Virginia”, by William Hurley Jr., Heritage Books, Inc (1996), page 8.

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EVIDENCE

DESCENDANCY NAMES

William Hurley states on page 7 of his book that Henry Pratt of the 1810 census named some of his sons Bernard, Fielden and Oliver.

It was the custom of European families to name their children and grandchildren after their grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, famous people or biblical characters.

I did an 8-generation Descendancy name search of Henry Pratt who married Nancy (**CARTER**) and found no repeats of those three names. (See chart on next page)

I also did an 8-generation Descendancy name search of Cynthia (**PRATT**) who married Abraham Absalom Blanton and found no repeats of those names. (See chart on next page)

- (a) Oliver named his children; Oliver, Nicholas, John Alexander¹², Elizabeth, William Henry, Madison, Henry, Nancy, Isaac, If all these children were proven to be of Oliver's family, then why no Oliver's, Nicholas', Elizabeth's, William's, Madison's, Thompson's, Isaac's in the Henry/Nancy, Absalom/Cynthia descendants?
- (b) Nicholas named his children Laura, John Marion, William Harrison, George Washington, America, James Dallas, Susan, and Florence. Once again the only names we have for duplicate in the Pratt-Blanton descendants is Susan & John both common names for that time period.
- (c) Nicholas and Bernard all remained in Virginia. Oliver moved to western TN. Not near Greene or Monroe Counties. I believe one of their descendants moved to western Missouri, but not anywhere around Franklin, Crawford, Washington Counties of Missouri where the Pratts, Blantons settled. In fact John Alexander Pratt, son of Oliver moved to Indiana, a northern state. All the Pratts, Carters, Blantons, and Harmons were southerners from southern states with southern roots and sympathies.
- (d) Also, both Henry Pratt who married Nancy (**CARTER**) and Absalom Blanton who married Cynthia (**PRATT**) named their first son, James. Usually, it was the custom to name the first-born son after the father or grandfather.

¹² In his book on Page 40, other researchers state that John Alexander Pratt was born 8 Sep 1811 in Greene Co., TN at the same time as Nicholas; his brother was born 18 Sep 1811 in Wythe Co., VA. Seems to be some discrepancy.

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NAME DESCENDANCY CHART

Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt's children and grandchildren

Susanna Rebecca married Henry H. Hansel Sr.: John W., Susan Jane, Henry H., Mary Eliza, Benjamin Walter, Beverly, Lawrence A., and Sterling Price.

James married Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**): Jacob Henry, Sarah Frances, Rinard A., and Nancy Young.

Lorenda married 1st Samuel Campbell: James H., Nancy C., Mary E., Sarah J., David A., Andrew Jackson and Mary C.

Lorenda married 2nd Rev. Ira S. Hull: Minerva Frances

Nancy Maria married Alexander Blanton Sr.: Catherine Jane, Alexander A., Absalom, Augustus, Nancy Maria, Isabelle, Louisa, Susan Jane, and Benjamin Franklin.

Alexander R. married 1st Mary (**KIMBERLIN**): Mary Ellen, Michael, Stonewall Jackson, Frances Minerva, Polina, Henry Winslow, Rhinehart and Minnie.

Alexander R. married 2nd Catherine Adaline (**DUGAN**): Carac Francis and Cleveland.

John Absalom Sr. married Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**): Nancy Catherine, Malinda Jane, Lorinda J., Mary F., Henry Absalom, Alexander, James A., Matilda Ellen, John Absalom Jr., Lula Elizabeth.

Sarah Ann married John Anderson Blanton: Charles H., Alexander, Emily J., Susan, Sarah Ann, William, Virginia D., Bethany, John Wesley, Nancy, Edward, Frederick, Phoebe and Katharine.

Mary Elizabeth married Elbert Sevier Blanton Sr.: Susan Jane, Absalom, Nancy Caroline, Mary Ellen, Sarah Ann, Martin Van Buren, Delila Catherine, Elbert Sevier and Lucy Adeline.

Matilda Jane married Henry Hubert Blanton: Henry W.A., James, Wesley Valentine, Jesse Van Buren, Wiley, Charles Edward, and William.

Cynthia (PRATT)'s & Abraham Absalom Blanton's children and grandchildren

James married 1st Margaret Green (**GOFORTH**): Green. 2nd Nancy A. (**ADAMS**); 3rd Nancy H. (**STEVENSON**)

Elizabeth married John D. Allen Sr.: Eliza Ann, Catherine Frances, John D. Jr., Elizabeth M., Mary Jane, Henry Allen, William Mitchell, Lucille Elvira Louisa and Clara Emeline.

Alexander A. Sr. married 1st Nancy Maria (**PRATT**): Catherine Jane, Alexander A. Jr., Absalom, Augustus, Nancy Maria, Isabelle, Louisa, Susan Jane, Sarah F. and Benjamin Franklin.

Alexander A. Sr. married 2nd Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt

Mary Caroline married John Absalom Pratt Sr.: Nancy Catherine, Malinda Jane, Mary F., Henry Absalom, Alexander, James A., Matilda Ellen, John Absalom and Lula Elizabeth.

Elbert Sevier Sr. married Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**): Susan Jane, Absalom, Nancy Caroline, Mary Ellen, Sarah Ann, Martin Van Buren, Delilah Catherine, Elbert Sevier Jr. and Lucy Adeline.

John Allen married Margaret Serice (**BLANTON**): Cynthia A., Nancy C., Christian L., Austin Clark, John E., Charles Henry and William Joshua.

Henry Hubert married Matilda Jane (**PRATT**): Henry W.A., James, Wesley Valentine, Jesse Van Buren, Wiley, Charles Edward and William.

William Wesley married Mary Ann (**BLANTON**): Charles W., Sarah Ann, Bethany, Catherine Jane "Jennie", William Luther "Joker", William Robert General Lee.

Martin Van Buren: not believed married.

Since there are no **Olivers, Fieldens** or **Bernards** it would appear that the above descendants were not related to the Henry Pratt of the 1810 Washington Co., VA census.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

By *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* © 2003 revised 2013 3rd Edition

Under both families the following given names are represented with their frequency:

Absalom = 8	Cynthia = 1	Fred = 1	Louisa = 3	Rhinehart = 1
Adeline = 2	Clara = 1	Henry = 9	Lucy = 2	Rinard = 2
Allen = 1	Cleveland = 1	Hubert = 1	Luther = 1	Robert = 1
Alexander = 7	Christian = 1	Isabelle = 2	Malinda = 2	Sarah = 9
Andrew = 1	David = 1	Jacob = 1	Maria = 3	Sevier = 3
Ann = 5	Delila = 3	Jackson = 2	Martin Van Buren = 2	Sterling Price = 1
Augustus = 2	Edward = 3	James = 7	Mary = 9	Stonewall = 1
Austin = 1	Elbert = 3	Jane = 7	Matilda = 2	Susan = 6
Benjamin = 3	Eliza = 1	Jennie = 1	Michael = 1	Valentine = 2
Bethany = 2	Elizabeth = 4	Jesse Van Buren = 2	Minerva = 2	Virginia = 1
Beverly = 1	Ellen = 5	John = 7	Minnie = 1	Wesley = 3
Carac = 1	Emily = 1	Lawrence = 1	Nancy = 11	Wiley = 2
Catherine = 5	Frances = 2	Lee = 1	Phoebe = 1	William = 4
Caroline = 1	Francis = 1	Lorenda = 1	Polina = 1	Winslow = 1
Charles = 5	Franklin = 1			Young = 1

Look for common progenitors with the following most frequent given names: Alexander, Catherine, Elizabeth, Ellen, Henry, James, John, Jane, Mary, Nancy, Sarah, Susan, and Ann.

No Olivers, Fieldens, or Bernards.

CARTER ASSOCIATION

There was a Henry Pratt who participated in the 1832 Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery. The Carters also participated in the land lottery. He received land near the Carters in northern Georgia. I feel this is our Henry Pratt.

Since Henry married Nancy (**CARTER**), then the Pratts should have a close relationship with the Carter Family in the area of Greene or Monroe Co., TN...and they do.

None of the Henry Pratt's children, Bernard, Fielden, or Oliver of the 1810 census has had a close or reported association with the Carter, Harmon, Blanton or Luster families.

In fact, according to his book¹³, they do not know what happened to their Henry Pratt of the 1810 census of VA.

1830 MONROE COUNTY, TN CENSUS

There is a Henry Pratt Sr. in the 1819 Greene County, TN Court minutes, listing him as elderly in age, and the court record anticipating that his death would be shortly.

They were giving him an allowance to live on for as long as he lived. This would indicate that he may or may not have made it to the 1830 census of Monroe County, TN.

¹³ "Pratts Families of Virginia", by William Hurley Jr., Heritage Books, Inc (1996)

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He may have been the elderly Pratt in the 1830 Monroe County, TN census and who died shortly thereafter.

CENSUS: 1830 Monroe County, TN. Page 111A:			
HENRY PRATT	2-1-0-0-1-0-0-1		2-1-0-0-1
Ages	Free white males		Free white females
4 & under	= Unknown male	4 & under	= Nancy Mariah age 1
4 & under	= Unknown male	4 & under	= Lorenda age 2
5-9	= James age 8	5-9	= Susan age 9
20-29	= Henry Jr. age 30	20-29	= Nancy (CARTER) age 30
50-59	= Henry Sr. age 50-60?		

If the census taker came to the home and both of the oldest male inhabitants were named Henry Pratt, then it makes sense that the older man in the 1830 Monroe County, TN census is the father with the same name of the next oldest man who fits the age of our Henry Pratt Jr with his wife Nancy and children.

I am relatively sure that this is our Henry Pratt Sr and Jr. Who the other two boys were is unknown at this time.

Evidence suggests that many of the Pratts were settled in Greene County, Tennessee and lived around the Carter family.

Greene County became organized in 1783 from Washington County.

When Monroe County was formed in 1819 from Roane County, it appeared that they moved to Monroe from Greene sometime between 1820/1830.

No land ownership records have been found in Greene, Monroe, McMinn or Bradley counties for our verifiable Pratts.

Next to Henry Pratt in the 1830 census are Carters, Harmons, Blantons, and Lusters all relatives of Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt and Absalom Blanton.

If this Henry Pratt age 50-59 of the above census, is the same Henry Pratt of the 1810 Washington Co., VA census then the ages are off. Also, where are his children?

The Henry Pratt of the 1810 census is 45 and over. If you add twenty years to the age (for the 1830 census) he would be a minimum of 65 and over.

The elderly man in the 1830 census is 50 to 59 years old. Therefore, he is not the same Henry Pratt of the 1810 census.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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AGE DISCREPANCY

Henry Pratt of the 1810 VA census would have been a minimum of 67 years old at the time of the 1832 lottery. The 1810 census states he was born **before** 1765. Most men did not live past 50 years of age back then and reaching 67 would have been a stretch. But it was possible.

Another factor against Henry Pratt of the 1810 census of VA is the ages. Let's take a look at that 1810 census in detail.

The Henry Pratt listed was born before 1765. If his birth were right at 1765, then he would have married about 20 years later, which would put his marriage at 1785. Where is his marriage record for 1780 to 1790?

If the researchers for Oliver Pratt are positive that Oliver was born about 1784 then, this would mean that their Henry Pratt did get married in his early twenties. The children started arriving in 1784 with Oliver and Bernard in 1784, Fielden in 1785 then no one, that there is a record for, shows up until a son in 1794.

That's a gap of **9 years** between children! Then Henry is supposed to have had children in 1794, 1795, 1800, 1800, 1810. Highly unlikely!

From 1784 to 1810 is a **26-year spread**! Who has children for 26 years?

You might say well, he remarried. Then, where is the marriage record for a Henry Pratt in Virginia or Tennessee after 1784?

I think we are stretching it a bit to think that the children born in the 1784 to 1810 range belongs to this family.

Even 1794 to 1810 represents a child birthing 16 years and you know that the number one cause of death to women back at that time was...childbirth.

I think we have several families here; one being Henry Pratt of VA with children from 1784 to 1794 and another PRATT family with children from 1794 to 1800 and my Henry Pratt family from 1800 to 1815.

In conclusion:

1. The Henry Pratt of the 1810 census did not move to the Greene Co., TN area.
2. Nor did he bring any of his children.
3. The Henry Pratt Sr. of Greene Co., TN may have made it to the 1830 Monroe Co., TN census.
4. None of the descendants named their children after the Henry Pratt's children of 1810 census.

Therefore, these are not the same men.

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THE HENRY PRATT OF TALBOT CO., MARYLAND

Checking the Marriage Records of Maryland I found a Henry Pratt married Ann (**OSBORNE**) of Cedar Grove, Queen Ann Co., Maryland in 1794.¹⁴

Also, a Henry Pratt married Ann (**WRIGHT**) daughter of Solomon Wright in St. John's Parrish, Caroline Co., Maryland on 9 July 1780.¹⁵

In his book, "The Pratt Pages"¹⁶, Edward Pratt has done a magnificent job at researching the Pratt families from all over the area of Maryland, Virginia, & North Carolina. He has tracked his Pratt line back to England. On page 8 he states:

"After searching the early records of Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina, only two possible families stand out. James Pratt may have been a relative of the Henry Pratt of Talbot County, Maryland. "

On page 3 of his book he states the following,

"In the colonial records of Maryland, one finds a large Pratt family located in Talbot and Queen Anne counties. They are just across the Chesapeake Bay from Westmoreland and Northumberland counties in Virginia. One HENRY PRATT of Talbot County, Maryland had the following sons:

<u>HENRY PRATT</u>	died 1751----he also had a <u>HENRY</u>
<u>JAMES PRATT</u>	died 1762
<u>JOHN PRATT</u>	died 1770
<u>WILLIAM PRATT</u>	died 1760 married <u>Mary</u> Wright

WILLIAM PRATT also had a HENRY PRATT, SOLOMON PRATT, MATILDA PRATT and WILLIAM PRATT. William and family left Maryland and settled in Anson County, N.C."

In the 1880 census of Washington Co. Missouri, Henry Pratt's son, Alexander R. Pratt states that both his father and mother were born in VA. However, three of his siblings report that their parents were born in Tennessee. Consequently; we don't know where they were born.

The common trail of entry into TN from NC or VA or any northern state was the Cumberland Gap down the Cinch River. This was the easiest way to the Tennessee valley. They could have ended up at Washington, Greene, Hawkins or Monroe or any surrounding county.

Add this to the information that the Carter's came from New Jersey down through the Cumberland Gap our Henry also could have followed the Carters through the same route.

Are any of these Henry Pratts ours? I don't believe so.

¹⁴ "Colonial Families of Southern America 1700's"

¹⁵ "Bulletin of The Maryland Genealogical Society", Vol 16, page 73-79 (1975)

¹⁶ "The Pratt Pages" by Edward "Eddy" Pratt, (1986) Route 7, Box 409, Clinton, TN 37716.

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THE HENRY PRATT OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NC.

In Rockingham County, North Carolina, there was a Pratt clan who was headed by **James Pratt** born 1762 in Talbot County, Maryland.¹⁷

There is a James Pratt Sr. who is listed in the 1805 tax schedule for Greene County, TN. He may be a son of the above James.

I checked the 1785 and the 1800 Greene Co., TN tax lists and there were no Pratts listed. So, it appears that James Pratt Sr. moved to Greene Co., TN between 1800/1805.

Edward "Eddy" Pratt did verify James Pratt Sr. was from Rockingham Co., North Carolina and moved to Greene Co., TN with his family.

What makes this a possibility is that Henry Jr. and his sister Cynthia both named their first son JAMES.

However what bothers me about James Pratt Sr is his children; Nancy (**PRATT**) married Robert Stuart in 1808¹⁸; James Pratt Jr. married Susanna (**COUCH**) in 1809¹⁹ and Polly (**PRATT**) married Jacob Harmon in 1811²⁰.

These children were marrying almost 10 years before Henry Pratt Jr. was married and 15 years before Cynthia's marriage to Absalom Blanton. This makes their birth about 1785-1790. Maybe James Pratt's family was large and spread out over a long period of time.

Also, James Pratt Sr and James Pratt Jr. moved to Knox Co., TN and lived and died around the Knoxville area. My Henry Jr. moved south to Monroe Co., TN then west to Missouri.

Also, the Knox County Pratts have not had any association with the Carters, Harmons, and Blantons like our Henry Pratt.

Another factor, usually daughters stuck pretty close to their parents. Cynthia stays in Greene County until she leaves with Absalom in the 1830's for Missouri. If she was James Pratt Sr's daughter, she didn't stay in close proximity of her parents. Therefore, it does not look like James Pratt Sr. of Knox County was her parent.

This does not explain who the elderly man was in Henry Pratt's house in the 1830 census of Monroe Co., TN but he was not James Pratt Sr. who is listed in the 1830 Knox Co., TN census.

Therefore, I do not believe James Sr. is the father of Henry Pratt Jr. or Cynthia (**PRATT**).

¹⁷ "The Pratt Pages" by Eddy Pratt, (1986) Route 7, Box 409, Clinton, TN 37716.

¹⁸ Green County, Tennessee Marriage Book "A", Page 179 (11 Jan 1808) FHL#944386

¹⁹ Green County, Tennessee Marriage Book "A", Page 191 (13 Mar 1809) FHL#944386

²⁰ Green County, Tennessee Marriage Book "A", Page 206 (31 Aug 1811) FHL#944386

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SENIOR SMEANOR WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?

Let me make something clear, nowhere have I ever found my Henry Pratt of Washington Co., Missouri referred to as a junior, Junr. or Jr.

My conjecture that he may be a Jr is based on the Green County Tennessee Court records that in 1819 there was a "Henry Pratt Senr" and the possibility of the census taker listing Henry Pratt referring to the older man in the 1830 Monroe County Census. If they were referring to Henry Pratt who married Nancy (**CARTER**) then he could not have been a "SENR" because he and NANCY did not get married until Oct 3, 1820. Therefore he would not have had any children to be SENR to in 1819.

Also, look at that 1830 Monroe County, TN census. The ages do fit for a Sr and a Jr. So, the Jr is strictly *my* insertion.

Back in the 1800's, people did reference Sr and Jr loosely.

Margaret U. Lofquist writes in her book, "The Pratt Family";²¹

"It may well be to note here that in those days the terms junior and senior were often used to separate two adults (usually close relatives) of the same name and living in the same area. Therefore, a younger man with junior added to his name, could be a son, a nephew or perhaps a grandson of a man bearing the same name."

However this does not diminish the evidence of two different men at the same time in Greene County or Monroe County, TN. with the same name.

So, do not jump to conclusions about my use of Jr.; it is strictly to distinguish him from the old Henry Pratt Senr of the 1819 Greene County, Tennessee court records.

After researching Eddy Pratt's book, "The Pratt Pages", and a manuscript by Margaret U. Lofquist called "The Pratt Family" (1966), I have come to the conclusion...my Henry Pratt does not belong to either of those families.

Both authors have researched the North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia Pratts back to England and we can find no connection to our Henry Pratt of Greene County, TN.

What is missing is the name connection. We do not have a Richard, William, Thomas, Vernon families, Hampton families, Beaver families or any other connections or associations with the North Carolina Pratts.

Therefore, Henry Pratt of Greene County, TN popped up out of nowhere and it looks like he originated in the hills of Tennessee.

²¹ "The Pratt Family", by Margaret U. Lofquist (1966), page 11

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THE (JOHN) HENRY PRATT CONTROVERSY FACTOR

It has been told by the Blantons in the Washington, Crawford Counties of Missouri that whom I call Henry Pratt Jr was actually (John) Henry Pratt.

None of the old Pratt descendants in those areas had ever referred to him as (John) Henry Pratt.

None of the legal documents or any records or source of records I have found refers to the Henry Pratt who married Nancy (**CARTER**) as John.

I have two basic explanations for this peculiarity.

Either, the Henry Pratt that married Nancy (**CARTER**) was actually John Henry Pratt and not related to the old Henry Pratt Sr. of Greene Co., TN court records or the Henry Pratt family of Greene Co., TN, as I believe were of Cherokee ancestry.

I searched Monroe Co. Tennessee records and found only one reference to any Pratts in the marriage, deed, and probate or court records from 1819 to 1850. Henry Pratt is listed as a trustee of the Ebenezer Methodist Church in 1838.

Consequently, I have found no evidence to support a (JOHN) Henry Pratt.

Concerning the Cherokee Native American background, I address this subject in detail in the following chapters on Henry Pratt Jr.²²

SUMMATION

In conclusion, if Henry Pratt was a senior as the court records declare, then there must have been another Henry Pratt implying a close relative as a junior.

I have not found any other Pratt with a first name Henry in the Greene Co. or Monroe Co., TN records other than our Henry who married Nancy (**CARTER**).

Since we have lost the eastern Tennessee census records we don't know who the Pratts were in the 1820 timeframe. This makes it extremely difficult to track the Pratts eastward out of Tennessee. On the surface it appears they originated in the eastern portion of the Tennessee Mountains.

I have picked up their trail, which has led to Missouri however, when glancing backward it is hard when a paucity of records creates a hazy fog obscuring your vision.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, M.A.G.I.

²² A detailed report about his name follows later in this book.

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*“For now we see through a glass, darkly;
but then, face to face:
now I know in part;
but then shall I know even as also I am known.”²³*

HISTORICAL CONJECTURE

1770-1780	Henry Pratt Sr. was born place unknown
1770-1780	Henry Pratt 's wife was born.
1790-1800	Henry Pratt Sr. gets married.
Jul 18, 1797	Henry Pratt Sr. buys land in Georgia.
1794-1800	Son, Henry Pratt Jr. is born in?? VA, TN, NC.
1800-1810	Daughter, Cynthia (PRATT) is born in?? VA, TN, NC.
1804	Henry Pratt Sr. sells land in Georgia.
Before 1819	Henry Pratt Sr. moves to Greene Co., TN. ?????
Oct 26, 1819	Henry Pratt Sr. receives allowance from Greene Co. court.
Oct 20, 1820	Henry Pratt 's son is getting married in Greene County, TN to Nancy (CARTER).
1820/1822	Henry Pratt Sr.'s old place is mentioned in the Greene County, TN court minutes.
Apr 16, 1825	Henry Pratt Sr's daughter, Cynthia Ann (PRATT) is getting married to Absalom Blanton in Greene Co., TN.
1830	Henry Pratt Sr. census Monroe CO., TN.?????
1830-1838	Henry Pratt Sr. dies in Monroe Co., TN.

All the above is predicated on the basis that the Pratts were of European background.

As the story unfolds, Henry Pratt and his sister Cynthia were Cherokees and may not have been related to the Henry Pratt Sr at all.

²³ | Corinthians 13:12 by Paul, the Apostle

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HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI

Henry Pratt's birth history is as follows:

Date from **1820** Greene Co. TN marriage record indicates he was born 18 to 30 years prior to his marriage or 1790 to 1802.

Date from **1830** Monroe Co. TN census states he was born 1801/1810.

Date from **1840** Washington Co. MO. census states he was born 1791/1800.

With the above dates in conflict it is hard to determine when and where he was born.

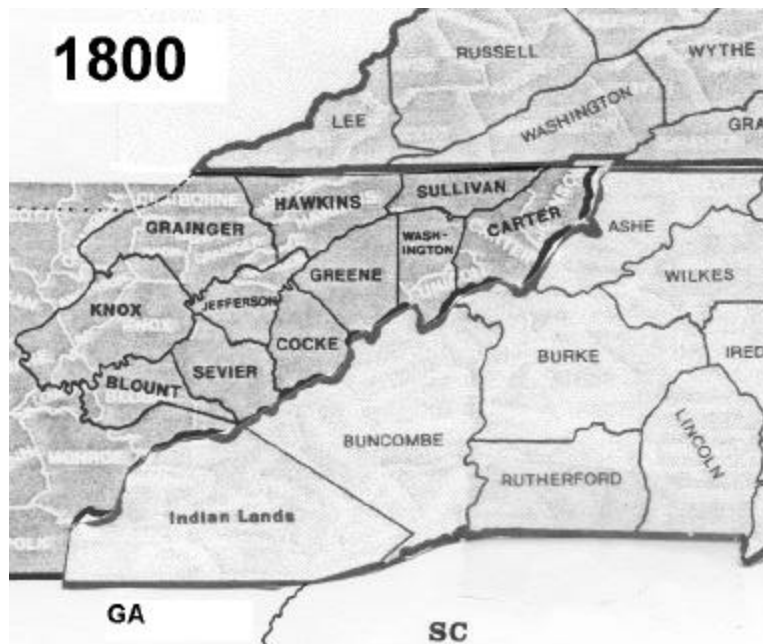
The common denominator in each census is 1800. The range of birth is from 1790-1810. I dismiss 1810 because he was married Oct 3, 1820, therefore he would not have married at 10 years of age.

Usually men married at 18-30 ranges. If this were true with Henry, then his birth would be from 1790-1802.

Therefore based on all the above factors, his birth could have been from 1790 to 1802.

Also, most likely he married close to his age. We do know that Nancy (**CARTER**) was born 1802/1804; therefore Henry probably was born 1800/1802.

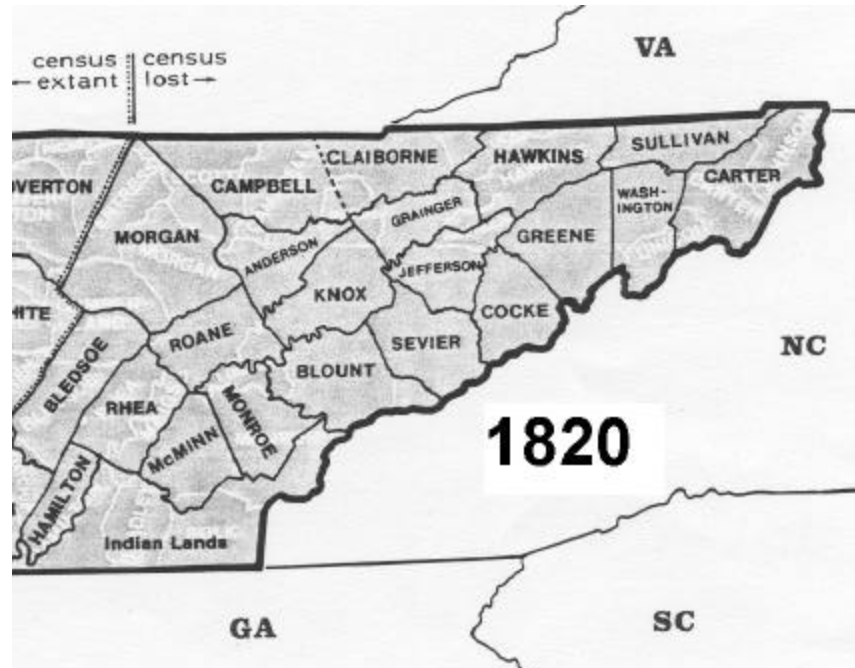
The story of the Henry Pratt family of Washington Co., MO begins in Greene Co., TN.



The area at the time of his birth.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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The area at the time of his marriage.

MARRIAGE

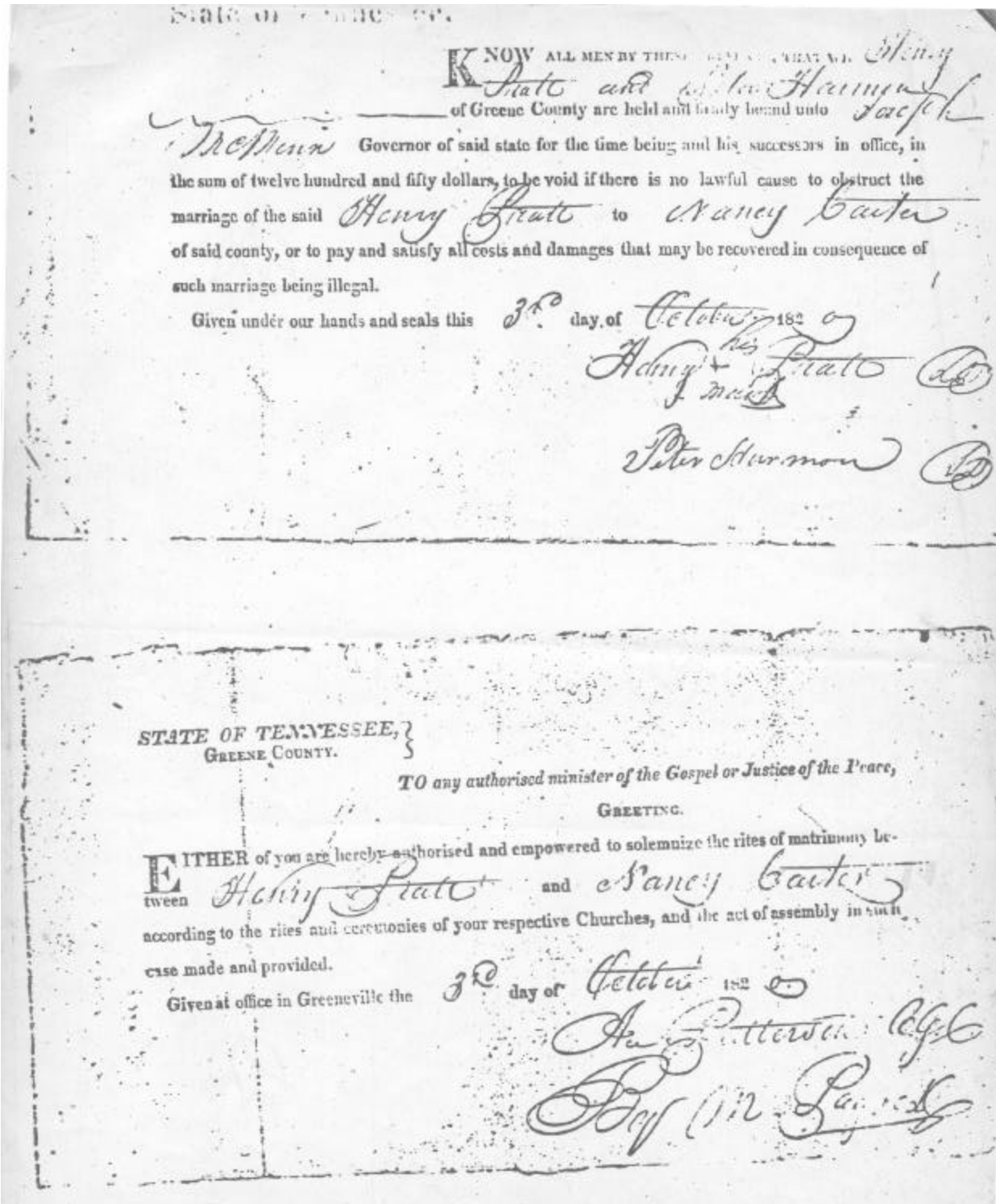
The first place we can identify him is his marriage to Nancy (**CARTER**) in Greene Co., TN. on 3 Oct 1820.²⁴



²⁴ Greene Co., TN, Marriage Book "A" Page 2207 (3 Oct 1820)

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This document states that Henry Pratt and Peter Harmon of Greene County, Tennessee posted a \$1250 marriage bond²⁵ in the event of some legal obstruction to the marriage of Henry Pratt and Nancy (**CARTER**).

²⁵ "Marriage Bond a financial guarantee that no impediment to the marriage existed. Furnished by the intended bridegroom or by his friends." The How Book For Genealogists, by The Everton Publishers (1971) page 178.

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The second part authorizes any minister to legally marry the two individuals. Henry signed his "x" and Peter Harmon (Nancy's Uncle) signed his name. (3 Oct 1820)

Because Henry signed this document with an "X", indicates he was without an education. If he had been a descendant of an eastern Pratt family, most eastern European families educated their children through schools or tutors.

Also, it appears Peter Harmon had the funds to post the marriage bond. If Henry had the money, he would not have had all the financial problems that his family incurred as we shall soon see. Twelve hundred and fifty dollars was an exorbitant amount of money at that time however, this was the normal fee for marriage bonds regardless of race.

Peter Harmon was a junior and the brother of Susanna (**HARMON**) who married Jesse Carter Sr. This makes him Nancy (**CARTER**)'s uncle on her mother's side.

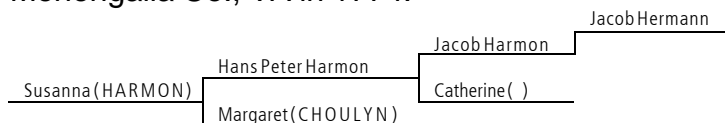
HARMONS-CARTERS

The name Harmon means, "war-man". There are countless stories of the Harmons going out of their way to do battle with the Native Americans. They loved to engage in warfare.

Hans²⁶ Peter Harmon (Sr.) was born on the boat enroute to the new world. His family came from, Palintate, Germany. He came to America with his father and mother, Jacob Sr. & Anna Catherina (**PAUSCHEN**) Hermann Harmon on 28 Sep 1733²⁷.

Hans Peter Harmon²⁸ married Margaret (**CHOULYN**) around 1759 probably in Virginia.

Their daughter, Susanna (**HARMON**) was born in 1775 in Bedford Co., VA and married Jesse Carter Sr. on 9 Jan 1798, in Greene Co., TN²⁹. Jesse Carter Sr. born in Arnettsville, Monongalia Co., VA in 1774.



Jesse Carter Sr.'s parents were Levi (1736/1740 to 22 Apr 1811) & Susannah (**ANDERSON**) Carter supposedly from Wales. They were married around 1765/1767. He arrived in New Jersey about 1760/1765.

Levi and 4 other brothers spent some time in Morristown, NJ and moved to Pennsylvania then Monongalia Co., VA. They came to Greene Co., TN from Surry Co. North Carolina around 1783 and settled on Lick Creek. They built a Fort now called Carter's Station³⁰.

²⁶ German for John.

²⁷ "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index", Page 828, all arrived in Philadelphia, PA, Sept. 28, 1733: Also: "Pennsylvania German Pioneers", Page 126-129, List 33A, A list of the Passengers imported in the Brigantine Richard and Elizabeth. Captain Christopher Clymer, Sept. 28, 1733.

²⁸ For a detailed report see "Pratt Progenitors Papers" Volume 8, by Floyd Thomas Pratt (1990)

²⁹ "Greene County, Tennessee Marriages 1783-1868", by Burger, Book "A", Page 87 (9 Jan 1798)

³⁰ For an extensive report on the Carters see; "Levi Carter Family of Greene Co., TN", or "Pratt Progenitor Papers", Vol 7 (1990) both publications by Floyd Thomas Pratt

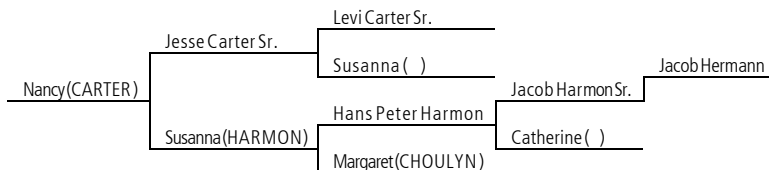
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They settled, developed and so called “civilized” the area, which was already “civilized” by the Cherokees. When they moved into Greene Co., TN...they moved smack dab into a Cherokee Indian war.³¹

Levi died in 1811 in Greene Co., TN. Jesse Carter Sr. died August 1849, McMinn Co., TN.³² Susannah (**HARMON**) Carter died 1860/1865 in McMinn Co., TN.

Nancy (**CARTER**), daughter of Jesse & Susannah (**HARMON**) Carter was born between 1800/1804 in Greene Co., TN and married Henry Pratt on 3 Oct 1820 in Greene Co., TN.



MARRIAGE PECULIARITY

Concerning Henry & Nancy’s marriage, there is a peculiar abnormality concerning this union... a lack of **Carter** participation.

Why **didn’t** Jesse Carter, her father or any of her brothers become surety for Nancy’s marriage to Henry Pratt in 1820?

She had to ask her Uncle Peter Harmon (Jr.) for help in posting the bond money.

Jesse Carter and his sons had posted surety marriage bonds for dozens of other marriages... why not Nancy’s? I have counted at least 10 individuals, some who were not even related to the Carters, that they helped and had posted bonds in the Greene Co., TN marriage records.

But, concerning his own daughter’s marriage...Jesse abstained. Why?

Also, as wealthy as Jesse Carter was, why didn’t he give his daughter, Nancy and her husband, Henry Pratt a dowry? Land or money would have provided some help.

I think it was because the Carters, especially Jesse did not like Henry Pratt. If Jesse had wanted to give land, he could have given it to his daughter, Nancy. Also, land could have been recorded in a deed book even under her name.

If he had given them money, Henry and Nancy could have bought land...if Henry was white.

Indians were not allowed to own land.

I feel there is strong evidence that Jesse Carter **disowned his daughter Nancy for marrying Henry Pratt, an Indian.**

³¹ More about this later.

³² McMinn Co., TN Will probated 10 Mar 1852

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In the eyes of white society, it was socially acceptable for white men to marry Indian females. However, it was unacceptable for white females to marry Indian men.

Due to a lack of white females from the east, Indian females were highly desirable. They were well educated and suited through years of training for survival in the wilderness environment.

As different missionary schools rose in the Indian territories, it became more common that cross marriages were taking place.

Increasingly educated *Indian* men with eastern educations were attracted to females both white and native however; white women represented a climb in social status.

However, many white settlers did not feel that way and inter-relational prejudice surrounding inter-marriage was very predominant.

John Ehle in his book, "Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation"³³ recounts the following backlash of one of these marriages:

"The affliction, mortification and disgrace of the relatives of the young woman, who is only about sixteen years old ("and who has thus made herself a squaw") ...will, it is believed, on examination be found to be the fruit of the missionary spirit, and caused by the conduct of the clergymen at that place and its vicinity, who are agents and superintend the school. And though we shrink from recording the name of the female thus throwing herself into the arms of an Indian yet, "daring to do all that may become a man or a christian," we hesitate not to name those believed to be mediately or immediately the cause of the unnatural connection; they are-[Here the writer named five men, beginning with Dr. Beecher and ending with Mr. Daggett]. ...And the relatives of the girl, or the people of Cornwall, or the public at large, who feel indignant at the transaction, some of whom have said that the girl ought to be publicly whipped, the Indian hung, and the mother drown'd, will do well to trace the thing to its true cause, and see whether the men above named, or their system, are not the authors of the transaction as a new kind of missionary machinery."

As you can see, white people's feelings and emotions ran high concerning cross marriages.

³³ Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation, by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books, New York, page 189.

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GOVERNMENTAL AGGRESSION AND CARTER PARTICIPATION

The explanation for the Carter's animosity towards Indians, I feel, has deep roots originating from their history since their arrival in Virginia.

After leaving New Jersey in the 1760's for Pennsylvania and the free land that was available, the Carter group consisting of John, Levi, Jesse, Joseph, Elijah and Caleb Carter moved by 1770 to Monongahela Co., VA and took residence along the Monongahela River Valley.

The influx and invasion of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, German Protestants, English, Welsh, and Huguenot immigrants into the Pennsylvania and Virginia territories was overwhelming for the original Native Americans.

As the immigrants pushed and shoved into Indian Territory, the natives fought back and the Carters were involved in a number of these wars.

King George III by royal decree established the Proclamation Line in 1763 proclaiming that, No white settlements would be allowed west of the Appalachian divide.

The Carters and others ignored this decree and settled in the Ohio River system in violation of the proclamation. This was in the heart of the Shawnee homeland.

These actions brought conflict with the resident Indian nations who were trying to hang on to their homeland and prevent Colonial squatters from seizing as they put it, "the burial ground of their grandfathers."

The seven years the Carters spent in Monongahela Co., VA was spent defending their lives in constant warfare with the natives.

As time passed more and more whites invaded Indian Territory and through hook or crook obtained lands and established governments.

By 1776, the Carters had volunteered for military service to help defend the western frontier of Virginia from British rule and their Indian allies.

The British Government had promised the Indians if they would join them and help defeat the Colonists, the Proclamation Line would be enforced. The Colonists made no such assurances.

In 1777, some of the Carters decided to migrate to Surry Co., NC and joined the North Carolina military forces.

They participated in the battle for King's Mountain in 1780 against the British Tories.

Since the early 1770's, the Cherokees had been occupied with a 15-year war with the Colonists over possession of land rights. The Indians felt they owned their land and the Colonists felt might was right.

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Consequently, because of the encroachment of whites into Indian Territory, the Cherokees like other native nations sided with the British in order to protect their homeland heritage.

In North Carolina, the Colonists had suffered several defeats and the British with their Tory allies were gaining in the war.

Since the Tories knew who the revolutionists were, the Carters feared they would be caught and hung as traitors to the crown and their families would be made to suffer.

In 1780/1781, the Carters decided to flee to Washington Co., NC, which as the western most part of the state would offer safety and refuge. In 1783 part of that area became Greene Co., TN.

In that part of the country, during the 1780's the local inhabitants were still engaged in a fierce war with the Cherokees over control of the Cherokee lands.

The Cherokees were fighting for their very existence to survive. The Carters were drawn into the Cherokee war and several of the Carters lost their lives.³⁴

Upon arriving in Greene County the Carters built Carter's Station, a fort, which the foundation is still standing today. This fort afforded protection from the natives and was a staging area for attacks against the Cherokees.

The Carters settled on Lick Creek and began to establish themselves as a dominant factor in the governmental affairs of the area regardless of who legally owned the land.³⁵

By the late 1780's the Cherokee's were defeated and the war was declared over.

After their defeat, the Cherokees and other tribes were forced by treaty to surrender large portions of their lands³⁶ to the newly formed American government as punishment for their alliance with the British.

Realizing they could not beat the technology or the sheer numbers of the Americans, the Cherokees decided to become model citizens even if they weren't granted that status by the new government and began to adopt the white man's way of life.

Hoping to keep themselves a distinct, separate nation from the government of the Americans, they made many attempts to conform and live in harmony with the white men.

George Washington sent missionaries and emissaries to the "5 civilized nations" namely: Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Seminoles and Chickasaws for acclimation into the newly formed government.

³⁴ John Carter Jr's pension papers state he was drafted for several campaigns against the Cherokees.

³⁵ For more information about the Carters see the bibliography list.

³⁶ In one treaty alone, the Watauga settlers, for a meager \$2000 sterling and \$8000 in trade goods swindled the natives out of 20 million acres.

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Over the next 30 years, the Cherokees were taught commerce, trade, advanced agricultural sciences and gradually embraced the white man's culture.

They built log houses, schools, churches and businesses and set up their own government. They formed a constitution and printed their own bilingual newspaper and established a Supreme Court after the fashion of the white man.

They took white names and named their children after white men.

They even established their own postal delivery system.

However, to the Carters, who had lost relatives in the Indian wars, old wounds still festered when in 1820, Henry Pratt, a Cherokee and Nancy Carter, a white woman, were married in Greene Co., TN.

CARTER PREJUDICE AND ANIMOSITY

This prejudice against the Indians I feel explains why the Carters did not help Henry & Nancy and it wasn't until widow Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt married the white man, Absalom Blanton in 1852³⁷ did Nancy get a portion from her father's estate.

I wonder if Jesse Carter said, "that Indian (Henry Pratt) will not get one single dime from me as long as he is alive."

After Henry Pratt's death (1842/1850), his widow, now Nancy Blanton received land from her Father's estate, which she sold to her brother, John Carter for \$80 in Monroe Co., TN in 1853.³⁸

Coincidence? I don't think so. I feel that her brother, John offered this to his sister not on his *own* accord but maybe by promptings from his mother, Susanna.

I think Jesse didn't leave Nancy anything because I cannot find a written record where he granted her anything.

In his estate papers, dated 1852³⁹ Jesse Carter Sr, stated "settlement was to be paid in equal amounts to heirs Peter, James, Henderson, John, and Lewis M. Carter, Margaret Trimm, and Levi Pressley."

Levi Pressley was Levi Pressley Carter, his son.

Jesse & Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter had 10 children: Henderson, **Nancy**, James, Levi, Margaret, John, **Susanna**, **Jesse Jr.**, Peter and Lewis.

As you can see from his papers, he left out, Nancy, Susanna and Jesse Jr.

³⁷ Crawford Co., MO., Marriage Book "A" Page 208. (21 Mar 1852)

³⁸ Deed: Monroe Co, TN., Deed Book "O", Page 618, 29 Oct 1853

³⁹ McMinn Co., TN, Book "E", page 197, 10 Mar 1852

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- Nancy had married Henry Pratt, the Cherokee Indian.
- Susanna had married Levi Presley. The Presley's were of Indian ancestry.
- Jesse Jr. had married Catherine Presley also of Indian ancestry.

I checked into Elvis Presley's family background and found references to Indian ancestry. If Elvis' line or tribe was related to the Presley's of Greene Co., TN is unknown to me at this time.

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi and this was Choctaw country. But his great grandfather came from Anson Co., NC and I don't know where the Indian ancestry materialized.

Nevertheless, it appears that Jesse Carter may have held a prejudice from years of battles, deep old wounds, hatred and anger against the Indians and I feel he extended this hatred over to his children when they married Indians.

Based on the lack of assistance and Carter participation in the above three children's families, I think the Carter family disowned Nancy (**CARTER**) until after Henry Pratt's death.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ For an extensive history of the Greene Co., TN Carters see, "The Carters of Greene County, Tennessee" by John Denton Carter (1981) Biloxi, Mississippi (available from this author)

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OTHER GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE MARRIAGES

In order to identify possible parents of Henry Pratt and/or siblings, let's take a look at other Pratts in the marriage book of Greene Co., TN⁴¹ at about the same time.

Group #1	Obadiah Neill	Elizabeth Pratt	page 584	4 Jan 1799
	William Pratt	Elizabeth Phillips	page 744	20 Jun 1801
Group #2	Moses Harmon	Hannah Pratt	page 962	1 Sep 1804
	William Pratt	Ibby Hall	page 1097	27 Mar 1806
	Robert Stuart	Nancy Pratt	page 1241	11 Jan 1808
	James Pratt	Susanna Couch	page 1337	13 Mar 1809
	Jacob Harmon	Polly Pratt	page 1459	31 Aug 1811
Group #3	Bingham Harmon	Fanny Pratt	page 1689	28 Feb 1815
	Achilles Pratt	Hannah Beals	page 1819	11 Feb 1817
	Constant Pratt	Esther Shelley	page 1914	9 Feb 1818
	Robert Pratt	Betsy Pope	page 1935	15 Apr 1818
	John Anderson	Temperance Pratt	page 1963	13 Aug 1818
	Henry Pratt	Nancy Carter	page 2207	3 Oct 1820
Group #4	Robert K. Pickens	Charlotte Pratt	page 2408	27 Feb 1823
	Absalom Blanton	Cynthia Pratt	page 2626	16 Apr 1825 (Henry's sister)
Group #5	John Bennett	Cynthia Pratt	page 3586	4 Mar 1834
	James Bennett	Maria Pratt	page 3686	18 mar 1835
	Calloway Farmer	Malinda Pratt	page 3909	1 Nov 1836

It appears we have 5 groupings of marriages.

Group #1. The first group is within 2 yrs of each other. I have found only one grandchild of Henry's named William and one grandchild named Elizabeth out of 8 generations since Henry Pratt. Not likely their parents.

Also, I have found no Phillips connections to the Carters, Harmons, Blantons, Lusters or Pratts.

Group #2. The second group we think belongs to the James Pratt Sr. from Rockingham Co., NC. They are all within 5 years and we know James Pratt Jr. moved with his father to Knoxville, Knox Co., TN.

We don't have any Moses, Robert, Ibby, Hannah or Polly's in our line.

⁴¹ Greene Co., TN, Marriages 1780-1850 FHL#944386

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James is repeated in our line and James named one of his sons, Jacob Henry Pratt. The Jacob I feel comes from the Kimberlin line because James Pratt married Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) and Jacob Kimberlin was her brother.

Group #3. The third group is most interesting. These marriages are within a 5-year range.

We have Francis in our line and John.

Henry's son, Alexander R. Pratt, I think the "R" stands for Robert, or Richard no proof.

But we do not have any verifiable, Constant, Robert, Achilles, Anderson, Bingham, Hannah, Betsy and Temperance listed in any descendants.

Group #4. We have descendant verification that Cynthia (**PRATT**) is Henry's sister⁴².

No Roberts, Abrahams or Charlottes in the descendancy name search.

Group #5. We do have Maria, Malinda, James and John in the descendancy name search.

However, if each of these Pratt females were married between 15/20 years of age, then they would have been born between 1814/1821, maybe related to Henry or Cynthia.

Consequently, this does not help us to identify parents or siblings.

We will have to look closer to their residences and who they associated with in order to form relational associations.

What this report does, is to acknowledge the presence of other Pratts in the Greene Co., TN area at the time of the marriage of Henry and Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.

The 5 "civilized tribes" had been adopting white men's names since the early 1700's.

These names could have been friends, neighbors, business partners or in-laws.

The Harmon family of Greene County, TN also has Indian inter-marriage, which has been well documented, and each of the spouses of Indian ancestry were known by white man names⁴³.

Since the eastern portion of Tennessee was the national headquarters of the Cherokee nation, (Chota in Monroe County) then it is highly likely that a high percentage of the above marriages were interracial marriages.

⁴² This information was declared truthful by all the "old" Blanton researchers. I have no proof of documental verification and neither do they, other than word of mouth. Therefore, I will give them the benefit of doubt and acknowledge a sibling relationship.

⁴³ Bethany "Nannie" (**HARMON**), who married Joshua Blanton has also been reported a Cherokee by Blanton and Harmon researchers.

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HENRY AND NANCY'S CHILDREN BEGIN TO ARRIVE

On August 4, 1822⁴⁴, [Susan A. \(PRATT\)](#) was born in Greene Co., TN⁴⁵. Her obituary states she was born in August 4, 1822, in Greene Co., TN. however, I feel that date is wrong. Her brother was born in 1823/1824 so the likelihood of her birth being 9 to 12 months after her parent's marriage is more probable.

On 30 Sep 1822⁴⁶, [James Pratt](#) is born in Greene Co., TN. His tombstone at Kimberlin Cemetery south of Bourbon states this date. However all other census data puts his birth around 1823/1824. I prefer the 1823 date.

[Lorenda \(PRATT\)](#) was born between 1825/1829⁴⁷ in Greene Co., TN.

[Pratt Boys](#) two were born between 1826/1830 in Greene Co. or Monroe Co., TN. to Henry and Nancy. They died before arriving in Missouri and did not make the 1840 census.

[Nancy Mariah \(PRATT\)](#) was born 10 Jul 1829⁴⁸ either Greene Co. or Monroe Co., TN. Her tombstone at Hamilton Cemetery in Johnson Township, Washington Co., MO states that date.

The confusion over the exact location of birth is a result of the migratory history of Henry & Nancy.

Could Henry have lived in Monroe County all along and when he made frequent trips to the trading posts at Greeneville in Greene County, could that be where he met Nancy (**CARTER**)?

No proof but a possibility.

⁴⁴ Date from 1830 census states she was born 1821/1825, date from 1840 census states she was born 1821/1825. Date from 1850 census states she was born 1822. Date from 1860 census states she was born 1823. Date from 1870 census states she was born 1823. Can't find her in the 1880 census. Birth date of August 4, 1822 from obituary. Therefore her birth date would be from 1821/1823. Since her parents married on Oct 3, 1820, it appears her birth could have been August 4, 1821 or 1822 or 1823.

⁴⁵ "Missouri Obituaries 1880-1881-1882, Abstracts of Obituaries, 18 Jan 1882, Volume 5"

⁴⁶ Date from 1830 census states he was born 1820/1825. Date from 1840 census states he was born 1825/1830. Date from 1850 census states he was born 1823. Date from 1860 census states he was born 1824. Date from 1870 census states he was born 1824. Date from tombstone states he was born Sep 30, 1822. Therefore his birth dates between 1823/1824.

⁴⁷ Date from 1830 census states she was born in 1825/1830. Date from 1840 census states she was born in 1825/1830. Can't find her in the 1850 census. Date from 1860 census states she was born 1829. Date from 1870 census states she was born 1834. Date from 1880 census states she was born 1828. Therefore her birth was from 1825/1830.

⁴⁸ Date from 1830 census states she was born 1825/1830. Date from 1840 census states she was born 1825/1830. Date from 1850 census states she was born 1830. Date from 1860 census states she was born 1830. Date from 1870 census states she was born 1830. Date from tombstone states she was born 10 Jul 1929. Therefore, her birth was 10 Jul 1929/1830.

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ANTAGONISM

Something the reader should be aware...the lack of precise recorded information about the Pratts. I have never found anyone with an old family bible of the Pratt family, prior to 1900's. Blantons yes, Harmons yes, but not Pratts.

Also, none of the Pratt descendants has pictures of Pratts prior to 1900's.

At the annual Pratt family reunion held in Bourbon, MO, the question was asked, "does anyone know of the existence of a photo of Henry Winslow Pratt, who died in 1914?" No one did.

Due to their Indian ancestry, recording information the white man's way was not a priority for the native tribes. In fact, just the opposite was the norm.

Our people were subjected by force to be either killed or pushed by the whites off their lands and the animosity towards the white men even to this day, stirs anger in the native blood.

At the height of the American treachery between 1800-1900, when confronted by the American government and their representatives, native peoples gave false information and refused to cooperate with those representatives.

A few mixed bloods, half white, half Indian, had established large plantations and had the finances to educate their children in eastern white man schools.

They established governmental connections with the whites and often made trips to Washington for consultations with congress and other governmental dignitaries.

However, the majority population of the native tribes kept to themselves and attempted to "get along" with the whites and considered them an unavoidable evil.

The more you read about the five tribes, the more impressed you will become with their organized, religious and civilized society.

Before I began researching the eastern tribes, I, like most people thought that all Indians as portrayed in the movies, were like the western natives.

After several years of research, I now know my ignorance and realize the eastern tribes were a blessed society and held ancient principals based on the gospels of the bible... especially the Cherokees.

Due to the sparse population of the Cherokees occupying close to 2 million acres of territory, covering 8 states and over 135,000 square miles, the intrusion of the whites into native lands was a slow and gradual process until after the Revolutionary War.

The real flood came after Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and then the floodgates were broken with a continuing flood of whites becoming a constant nuisance threatening the native way of life.

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Hostilities ensued and the Cherokees decided to compromise with the whites and to learn from their technologies, advanced business and agricultural processes.

As reported by John Ehle, *"the whites were a filthy and dirty people compared to the Cherokees, the whites bathing sometimes in autumn and in the spring in contrast to the Cherokees who bathed daily"*.

*"The Indians "went to water often" considering water, the sun, and fire to be the three holy gifts of the Great Spirit."*⁴⁹

Many differences existed between the whites and the natives.

Whiskey and alcohol were introduced to the Indians by the whites as a way of controlling the decision makers.

By intoxicating the chiefs and elected officials of the tribes, the government agents were able to get treaties signed without the consent of the tribal population and this fraudulent behavior was perpetrated on the natives with the support and blessing of the American government.

Ironically the whites viewed the natives as savages, when in reality, it is the savage history of the whites that reveals an image of savagery. This image is manifested in countless wars of aggression and conquest throughout the history of the world.

Comparing this to the Cherokees, war was only fought to maintain tribal sovereignty and personal transgressions.

John Ehle references the nobility of the Cherokee peoples:

"The Cherokees were often selected for distinction because they were inheritors of a dignity beyond their rather simple means and even referred to themselves as the "principal people." Their lands were the center of the Earth. All else radiated outward from there.

Naturalist and social historian William Bartram reported on them:

*The Cherokees in their disposition and manner are grave and steady; dignified and circumspect in their deportment; rather slow and reserved in conversation; yet frank, cheerful and humane; tenacious of their liberties and natural rights of men; secret, deliberate and determined in their councils; honest, just and liberal, and are ready always to defend their territory and maintain their rights."*⁵⁰

A noble and just people they were, however, unprepared for the technical superiority and brutalities of the white men, the natives were forced to accept the invaders who cleverly infiltrated into their tribes through marriage.

⁴⁹ *Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation*, by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books, New York, page 2.

⁵⁰ *Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation*, by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books, New York, page 1,2.

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To the natives, marriage they hoped would be the vehicle that would secure a lasting and safe relationship with the whites regardless of the whites penchant for dishonesty and betrayal.

To the whites, marriage offered prosperity and possible wealth by association on Indian lands.

As the whites crowded into Cherokee territory, the Cherokees were forced to withdraw and move deeper into their native homeland for protection.

Chota was the National Headquarters of the Cherokee nation, which was located on the Tennessee River in what is now Vonore Township, Monroe Co., TN.

The Henry Pratt family was no different and sought protection from the white intruders and sought safety in the heart of the homeland.

THE MOVE TO MONROE CO., TN

Sometime between 1820/1830 Henry Pratt and family moved to Monroe Co., TN following a large group of his in-laws. The reason why I can't give an approximate date is that Henry Pratt **never owned any land** in Greene, Monroe, McMinn, or Bradley County, TN.

This dilemma prohibits an approximate departure date from Greene Co. or an approximate arrival date to Monroe Co. All I know is he moved from Greene County to Monroe County between 1820/1830.

I can see four possibilities why he moved from Greene County to Monroe County:

1. If he was a white man...to get free Indian land that was becoming available.
2. Because Nancy wanted to be closer to her family and relatives.
3. If he was a Cherokee Indian...to be closer to his relatives and in-laws and the heart of his homeland, the Cherokee nation.
4. To participate in the 1826 gold rush in Monroe County.

Obviously the move wasn't for prosperity... **he didn't buy any land there!**

The Blantons, Harmons and Carters heard that free Indian land was opening up in Monroe County, Tennessee and they began a migration to that area over the next 20 years.

The following is a partial comment by L. McDonald, Nov 5, 1971:⁵¹

"From Court House records, the old land of John Blanton was located, on Lick Creek. The Harmon Valley Methodist Church is in midst of the once John Blanton land.

⁵¹ This partial report from letter of L. McDonald dated 5 Nov 1971.

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There were many Carter families in area of John Blanton 's Land. The deed at Greene Co., Tenn Court House proves that John Blanton sold this land in 1832. Mr. Carl N. Hayes, Chuckey, Tenn. knows much of the history of early Greene Co., Tenn. Says in about 1832 the Indians were removed from Bradley and Monroe Co., Tenn., and Blanton went to Monroe & Bradley to claim new land.

Map of Greene Co., Tenn. shows location of land of John Blanton and the Harmon Valley, where the Harmon Valley Methodist Church is now located. In cemetery in churchyard are Couch family graves."

Not quite true, some of the Cherokees left the area and moved to Arkansas but the majority of the Cherokee Nation still occupied their homeland. This would be about 14,000 to 20,000 natives.⁵²

In her book, on page 160-191 titled, "Inhabitants of Monroe County, Tennessee before 1830"⁵³ Reba Bayless Boyer states the following people were compiled from a list of jurors, officials, plaintiffs and defendants who are expressly listed as citizens of Monroe County in three Circuit Court Record books; Circuit Court Civil Cases 1820-1829, Circuit Court State Cases 1820-1830, and Circuit Court Minutes Record 1827-1834.

In the year of 1821, Allen & John Carter, Stephen Harman, were recorded as citizens of the county.

In the year of 1822, Jabash, Joseph and Micajah Carter with Stephen Harmon were in the county.

In the year of 1823, Lewis Carter joins the group.

In 1824, David, Isaac, Jabes, and Lewis Carter with James and Vincent Blanton (sons of John Blanton Jr.) and Stephen⁵⁴ Harmon are now in Monroe County.

In 1825, Allen, Isaac, Jesse⁵⁵, Micajah and Robert Carter are active in the county.

In 1826, Allen, Caleb, David, Isaac, Jabash, James, Jesse⁵⁶, John⁵⁷, Lewis⁵⁸ and Micajah Carter and John B. Harmon are active in the county.

In 1827, Amos, Caleb, Isaac, Jabes, Jesse, John W., Lewis and Robert Carter with Nathan and Trenton⁵⁹ Harmon are active in the county.

⁵² I think Henry Pratt was one of those who left Monroe and moved to Georgia, read about the land lottery.

⁵³ "Monroe County, Tennessee Records, 1820-1870 Volume II", Reba Bayless Boyer (1970) on page 160-191

⁵⁴ Peter Harmon's Son.

⁵⁵ Nancy Carter's father.

⁵⁶ Nancy Carter's father.

⁵⁷ Nancy Carter's brother.

⁵⁸ Nancy Carter's brother.

⁵⁹ Nancy Carter's cousin.

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In 1828, Allen, Caleb, David, Isaac, Jesse, John B. and Robert B. Carter with Joseph Harmon are conducting business in Monroe County.

In 1829, Caleb, Isaac and Levi⁶⁰ Carter are conducting business in Monroe County.

Another unfortunate event for the Cherokees was that Monroe County has the dubious honor of one of the first recorded Gold Rush⁶¹ in American history.

South of Tellico Plains near the North Carolina border, in 1826 at a place called Coker Creek, a soldier saw a gold nugget around the neck of an Indian woman.

An influx of gold-mad white's poured into the area, which prompted the natives to protest to the American government. In response, the Army made a futile attempt to send troops to protect the Indians and their property.

From a period between 1826-1860, \$80,000 in gold was removed from the Coker Creek area without reparations to the natives.

The Carters, Harmons and Blantons probably took place in the prospecting but they were already residents in Monroe County before the gold rush.

Henry obviously was not part of the gold seekers. Otherwise, he would have been wealthy and we would have been born in Monroe County, Tennessee. In fact, Henry wasn't involved in much of anything that had to do with the whites.

In the 18-year period from the time he was married in Greene County to the time he left Monroe County, Henry Pratt was able to accomplish a remarkable achievement; he was able to elude the authorities by not participating in Court proceedings, land purchases, witness on deeds records, witness on marriage records or any other legal proceedings in the counties of Greene, McMinn, Monroe, Bradley or Polk Counties of Tennessee.

Not only is his name absent from the records of Greene County but also from Monroe County except in 1838 when he was named as a co-trustee for the Ebenezer Methodist Church Campgrounds. Even under those conditions he was listed with 9 other men including his brother-in-law, Lewis Carter. So it appears, he was not an active or principle participant in governmental affairs. Why?

The land transactions are frequent in Greene and Monroe counties between the Carters, Harmons and Blantons. However, there are no transactions with our Henry Pratt!

Surely, if Henry Pratt were without financial means or in need, wouldn't the Carters stake him to some property or give him some land holdings as a gift, to help their sister, Nancy?

But, as we discussed earlier, Henry and Nancy received no assistance from the Carters.

⁶⁰ Nancy Carter's brother.

⁶¹ "Footsteps of the Cherokees: a guide to the Eastern homelands of the Cherokee Nation", Vicki Rozema (1995) John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, page 125.

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Land was going for less than a dollar an acre and Henry Pratt even at that price could not afford any amount of money for a homestead! Why?

Tennessee was his and Nancy's home and by 1830, he had a large family; Susan age 9, James age 8, Lorenda age 5/6, two unknown boys under age 4, Nancy Mariah age 1 and Tennessee was his children's home also.

That's where their grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins lived and they loved the area, it was home. If he was going to settle down or if he could settle down I would think this would be a good time...to establish roots among family and friends.

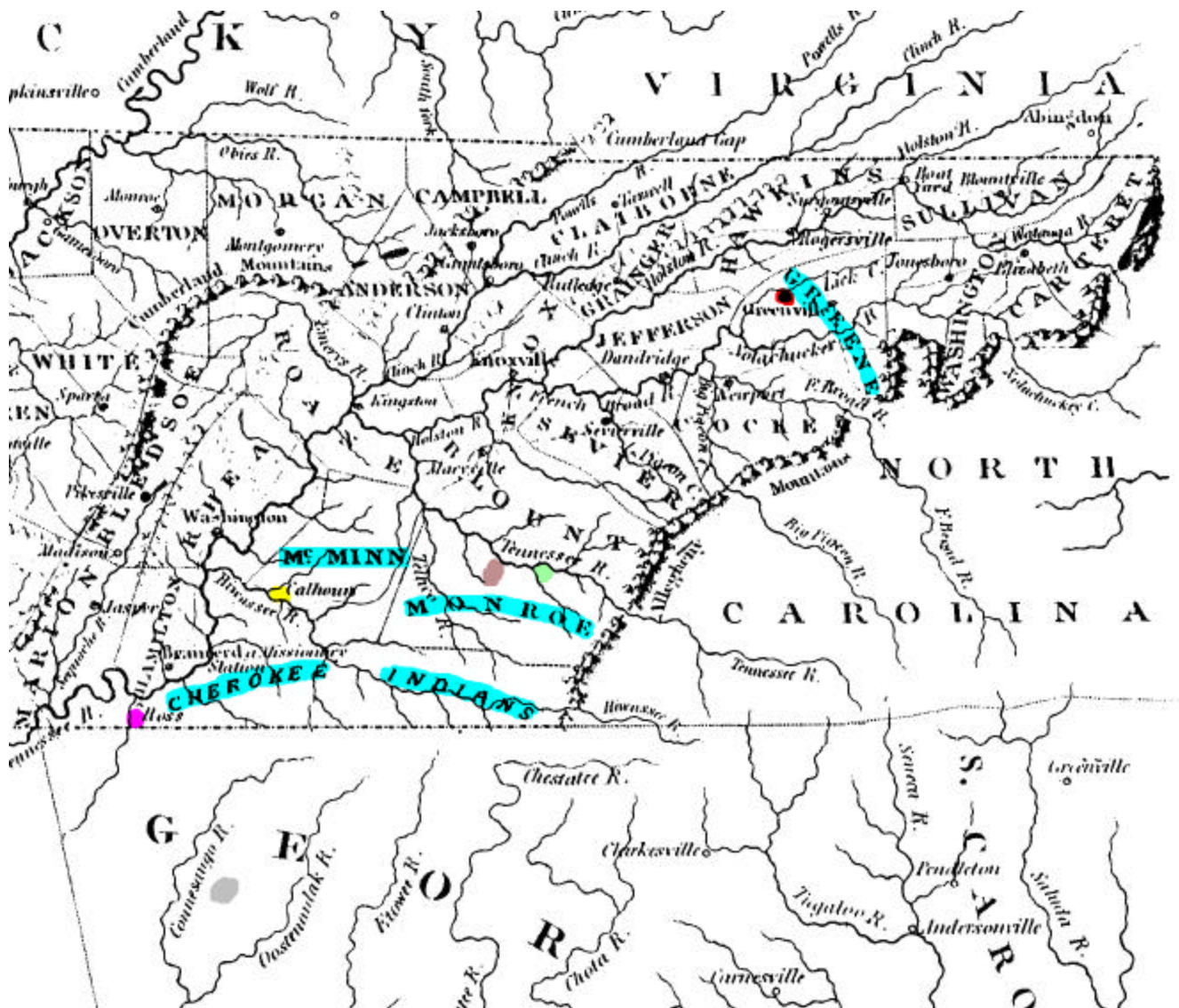
Moving to Monroe County in close proximity to your in-laws for safety and protection would be an ideal and reasonable course to pursue. So what happened?

I am about to answer these questions; in any case, Henry Pratt and family show up in the 1830 Monroe County, TN census.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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1830 EASTERN TENNESSEE



Counties are marked in **light blue** except the Cherokee land holdings. Notice the **red** dot in Greene County where Absalom Blanton was living.

The **green** dot in Monroe County was Chota the headquarters of the Cherokee nation. The **brown** dot is Bat Creek where the Blantons, Harmons and Carters lived and possibly Henry Pratt.

The **yellow** dot is Calhoun, which plays an important role at the time of removal. The **purple** dot is Ross' Landing now called Chattanooga.

The **gray** dot in Georgia is New Echota the new headquarters of the Cherokee nation as of 1825. The headquarters were moved to that location because of the influx of whites taking over the Cherokee lands.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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CENSUS OF 1830 MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

CENSUS: 1830 Monroe County, TN. Page 111A:			
HENRY PRATT	2-1-0-0-1-0-0-1		2-1-0-0-1
Ages	Free white males		Free white females
4 & under	= Unknown male	4 & under	= Nancy Mariah age 1
4 & under	= Unknown male	4 & under	= Lorenda age 2
5-9	= James age 8	5-9	= Susan age 9
20-29	= Henry age 30	20-29	= Nancy (CARTER) age 30
50-59	= Henry Sr. age 50-60???		

Monroe County was formed in 1819 from Roane County.

As you can see by the map, Greene Co., TN was a long way from Monroe Co., TN.

Consequently, it was no accident that he moved to Monroe Co., TN.

It was an intentional and deliberate move to Monroe Co., TN. but for what purpose?

Notice the two little boys in the above census. Apparently they didn't make it to Missouri and the 1840 census.

If you think Henry Pratt was a white man and was moving into Indian Territory, then you might conclude he was moving to gain land and financial stability, as did his in-laws.

The hole in this argument is that he never did buy land or gain financial stability.

If he was a Cherokee and he moved because he was pushed and forced out of each dwelling place, then he followed his people as they moved further south for safety from the whites.

This explains the move to Georgia from Monroe County.

In order to understand Henry Pratt's motives, we must first understand the political arena around eastern Tennessee and Northwest Georgia.

We must further investigate the history and current events of the 1830 Cherokees.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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THE CHEROKEES

The Cherokees heavily populated Monroe County and that portion of the state. In fact, the old Cherokee capital called “Chota” was located in Monroe County before it was changed to New Echota in Georgia in 1825.



The yellow #12 was the location of the Cherokee National Headquarters called Chota. The yellowed area along Bat Creek in the upper left hand corner was where the Carters, Harmons and Blantons settled. Most likely Henry Pratt settled in the same area.

Deed records in Monroe County stated Trenton Harmon⁶² purchased land on Bat Creek.

North Carolina offered the Cherokees, who were residents there, sanctuary if they swore allegiance as citizens of North Carolina and abide by the laws thereof. Even though President Jackson made an attempt to remove the Cherokees from southwest North Carolina, he failed and they are still living in their homeland in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

⁶² Trenton “Trent” Harmon, brother to Bethanie “Nancy” (HARMON) who married Joshua Blanton.

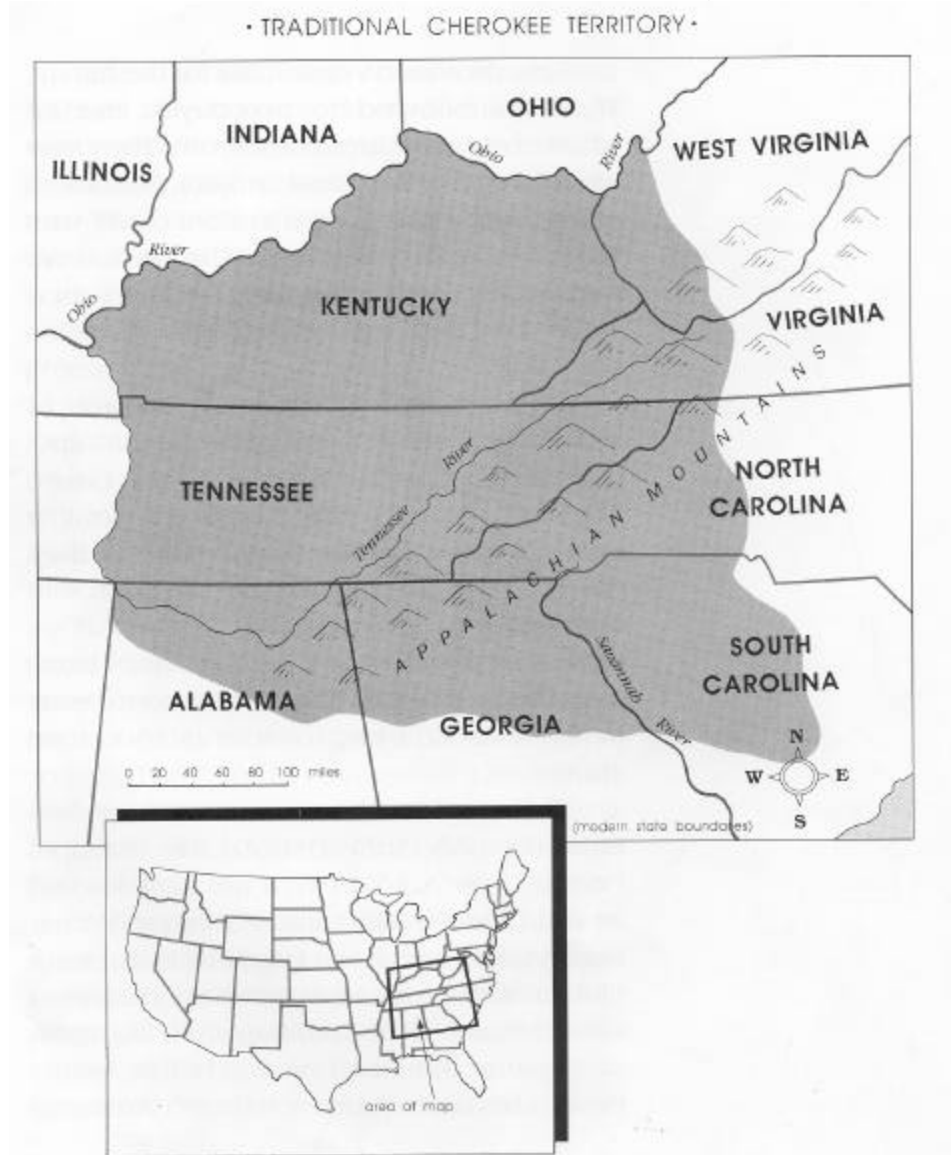
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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One of the concepts the Cherokee government held that really frustrated the Americans to hostility...was over land ownership. The Cherokees felt that all members of a tribe owned the land and no one person without tribal consent could buy, sell, convey or in any means break up the tribal lands⁶³.

This angered the Americans because how could “civilized” men, meaning themselves, prosper and cheat each other out of the land and its natural resources if they didn’t promote the illusion of land ownership?

The Cherokees owned such a vast empire of property (135,000 square miles) and according to the white man, they were not developing the landscape fast enough to exploit the resources.⁶⁴



The whites knew there was money to be made on Cherokee land and the Cherokees were foolishly wasting the potential and standing in *their* way.

⁶³ This concept was centuries old and became written law when they established their constitution.

⁶⁴ Map from "The Cherokee Indians" by Nicole Claro (1992) Chelsea House Publishers, New York

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So, the settlers just moved into Indian lands and took the property away from the Indians. Wars and bloodshed ensued and the government turned away from their promises to the Indians and supported the settlers and in the process, blamed the Indians for all the conflicts.

The government under Andrew Jackson's leadership was mute to the pleas from the Cherokees for justice and systematically forced treaty after treaty⁶⁵ breaking the will of the Native Americans to fight the government and piece-by-piece they removed them from their homeland by crooked agents supported by dishonest and criminal administrations.

This brings us to an interesting question; did the Carters, Harmons, Blantons and Pratts decide that since the government was going to run off the Indians, then the land would be theirs free for the taking? Evidence says yes because the Carters, Harmons and Blantons filed land claims in Monroe County and in McMinn County after the Cherokees left the area but not Henry Pratt, he left with them!

Because, Henry Pratt was a Cherokee and Cherokees were not allowed to own land.

Also as stated in the letter by L. McDonald, that John Blanton moved to Monroe and Bradley counties for free Indian land.

That's why there was a large entourage of Blantons, Carters and Harmons moving into Monroe County in the 1820's.

Henry Pratt was trying to withdraw from white intrusion but at the same time with a white wife, he found some degree of safety for his family with her in-laws.

He probably had converted to the white man's ways since birth and felt he was in all practicality...white. He must have been a man in conflict with two worlds.

In fact, his duality may have been one of the reasons Nancy was attracted to Henry.

Character Point: each of the Pratt males, *in my line*, since Henry, has married what they call "up" meaning a higher social status.

- Alexander Pratt married a wealthy Virginian's daughter who helped him purchased his first land in Washington County, MO.
- Henry Winslow Pratt married a wealthy Frenchmen's daughter who let them live in one of his houses on Crows Creek in Crawford County, MO.
- Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt married a wealthy banker's daughter who was shunned by her family for marrying a poor, uneducated boy from the hills of Crawford County.

The Pratts were rugged outdoorsmen who appealed to educated, prim and proper females. It seemed the more education the women possessed, the more of a rough and rugged man they liked and none came rougher than the Pratts.

⁶⁵ One hundred treaties in all by the 1900's, which were all broken by the United States Government.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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WHERE'S ABSALOM BLANTON?

Absalom Blanton (who married Cynthia (**PRATT**), Henry's sister) stayed in Greene Co., TN and did not move down to Monroe County with some of his relatives and in-laws. Why?

He is listed in Greene Co., TN buying 100 acres from William Dickson on 15 March **1827**.⁶⁶ In fact, some researchers feel that they may have been in Sumter Co., TN for the 1830 census.⁶⁷

On 26 Apr **1830**, in Greene Co., TN. Absalom Blanton bought 6 head of sheep on Monday.⁶⁸

On 25 Oct **1830**, in Greene Co., TN, Absalom Blanton was purchasing items from the Estate sale of Daniel Carter who was deceased.⁶⁹

In the **1830** Tax List⁷⁰ of Greene County, TN of Captain Samuel Gass' Company:
Absalom Blanton paid taxes on 100 acres in tract, on the Roaring Fork River, 1 white poll

The reason why Absalom Blanton didn't move to Monroe County was because he was a white man who had married a Cherokee, Cynthia (**PRATT**) and as a white man, he could buy and sell property and conduct business legally and he was prospering in Greene Co., TN!

So this evidence points to the fact that the Absalom Blanton family of Greene County, TN had very little association with the Henry Pratt family of Monroe County, TN...maybe nil.

His father, John Blanton Jr. was in the 1830 Monroe Co., TN census as was Absalom's brothers, Vincent, Joshua and Ezekiel.

In fact you could say, that Absalom was a very independent man and was indifferent when his family and siblings made their move to Monroe County.

⁶⁶ DEED: Greene Co., TN. Register Book 1824-1846, Entry No.1049, Dated 15 March 1827:

Absalom Blanton was granted title to 100 acres in Greene Co., TN., by right of entry that joined William Dickson and included a Sugar Camp. Tennessee land Grant to secure title North Carolina.

⁶⁷ Census: 1830 Sumner Co., TN,

BUNTON, Absalom

free white males

free white females

5-9 =

4 & under= Mary Caroline age 1

30-39 = Absalom age 28

4 & under= Elizabeth age 3

5-9 =

10-14 =

10-15 =

30-40 = Cynthia age 20

(This is believed to be Absalom's family according to William Jesse "Bill" Blanton of Norwood, MO. The ages don't seem to match up very well. Also, Absalom was buying sheep in Greene County, TN at about this time. I don't think this is our people.)

⁶⁸ SALE: Greene Co., TN. 26 Apr 1830 Absalom Blanton bought 6 head of sheep on Monday.

⁶⁹ SALE: Greene Co., TN 25 Oct 1830 Absalom Blanton was purchasing items from the Estate sale of Daniel Carter who was deceased.

⁷⁰ TAX: "Greene Co., TN, 1830 Tax List", by Sandra Kelton Houston, (1984), Southern Historical Press, page 89.

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WHY MOVE ALONE?

It appears Henry Pratt moved alone from Greene County to Monroe County and it does not make sense especially when you consider that **no other Pratts** are in the 1830 Monroe County census.

It was customary for parents, aunts, uncles, brothers and/or brother-in-laws to travel together when pioneering to new places for settlements...if you were white pioneers. This association helps us researchers to connect intermarried families and to keep track of the migration patterns of our ancestors.

But Henry Pratt breaks the mode and **none of his Pratt relatives** joins him in Monroe County, TN, including his sister's family!

It appears Nancy (**CARTER**) followed her father and mother, brothers and sisters and other relatives from Greene County to Monroe County.

I feel the Carters were there for the free Indian land and Henry Pratt was there because of his wife's wishes to be near *her* parents.

The Cherokee social network was a matriarchal society. The wife owned and operated the home and by custom her relatives helped raise the children. The father did not have much influence on the upbringing of the children. The mother's brothers and sisters raised the children.

Therefore it would not be unusual for Henry to follow his wife's desires, to be near her family since that was Cherokee custom and **he** had been indoctrinated to that system since birth.

Jewell Miranda (**HANSELL**) Weber⁷¹ sent me a story that her father (Henry Lafayette Hansell) had told and in the story she states:

"Dad used to tell me that his father (Joseph Henry 'Red Henry' Hansell) corrected them very seldom that their mother did most of the rules."

This behavior is in harmony with a matriarchal society, which was Cherokee custom.

Land was going for less than a dollar an acre. Cheap enough, why didn't Henry buy any? Also, over a million acres of Cherokee land was going to be free all you had to do was file, why didn't he file? Since Cherokee land was going to be opened up for white settlement, why didn't other Pratts join them in Monroe Co., TN?

Because, the other Pratts from Greene County were not his relatives friends yes, family no. His progenitors were Cherokee and lived in Southeastern Tennessee.

⁷¹ Jewell is the daughter of Henry Lafayette & Argie Matres (**NELSON**) Hansel and granddaughter of Joseph Henry "Red Henry" & Maranda Ethel (**LEWIS**) Hansell. Red Henry is the son of Henry H. Jr. & Nancy (**BRADSHAW**) Hansell. Henry H. Jr. is the son of Henry H. & Susan A. (**PRATT**) Hansell daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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1830 TENNESSEE CENSUS

Let's take a look at the other Pratts and related families in the 1830 Tennessee census.

1830 Census Key©		Males and Females										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4 and under	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 on up

In Greene County

		Males	Females
Page 177a	James Lynch Sr.	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
Page 177a	James Lynch Jr.	2-1-0-1-0-1	2-1-2-0-1 (Elizabeth Pratt wife)
Page 178a	Phillip Harmon Jr.	2-1-0-0-1	1-0-0-0-1
Page 178a	John Harmon	1-0-0-0-1	1-0-0-0-1
Page 178a	Phillip Harmon Sr.	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	1-0-2-1-0-0-1 (Barbara Coffelt wife)
Page 182a	Ellis Carter	3-2-1-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-1
Page 184a	William Luster	3-2-1-0-0-1	2-0-0-0-1-1
Page 184a	Mary Luster	0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
Page 189a	Obadiah Neil	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	1-0-0-3-1-0-0-1 (Elizabeth Pratt wife)
Page 189a	Robert Pratt	0-0-1-0-0-1 (30-39)	0-2-0-0-1 (Betsy Pope wife)
Page 189a	Moses Harmon	0-1-1-1-3-0-1	0-1-1-1-0-1 (Hannah Pratt wife)
Page 189a	Stephen Harmon	1-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-1-1
Page 190a	Ezekiel Carter	0-0-0-0-1	1-0-0-1
Page 190a	Alexander Pratt	0-0-0-0-1 (20-29)	0-0-1
Page 190a	Zechariah Luster	0-0-0-1-1	0-1-0-0-1
Page 190a	Barton Carter	1-1-2-0-0-1	1-1-0-0-2
Page 190a	Constant Pratt	2-1-0-0-0-1 (30-39)	0-1-2-1-0-0-1 (land grant 1825)
Page 191a	John Harmon	2-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-1
Page 202a	Benjamin Carter	0-0-0-0-2	1-0-0-0-1
Page 202a	Samuel Carter	1-1-0-0-0-1	0-1-2-0-0-1 (Mary Cassell wife)
Page 202a	Eli Carter	0-0-1-0-1	0-0-0-1 (Susanah Cassell wife)
Page 202a	Elias Carter	2-0-1-0-0-1	0-1-0-0-1
Page 202a	Elisha Carter	0-1-2-2-0-0-1	0-1-1-1-0-1
Page 203a	John Blanton	0-0-2-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-1-0-0-1
Page 203a	John Carter	1-1-0-0-0-1	1-1-1-0-0-1
Page 203a	Abel Carter	1-1-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-1
Page 203a	Jacob Carter	2-0-0-0-1	1-2-0-0-1
Page 206a	Mary Pratt	1-1-1	0-2-1-0-1-1 (30-39)
Page 213a	Achilles Pratt	1-1-0-0-1 (20-29)	0-1-2-0-0-1 (Hannah Beals wife)
Page 215a	Hugh Carter	0-1-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 (Sarah Ross wife)
Page 220a	Abram Carter	0-1-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
Page 220a	J.A. Carter	1-1-0-0-0-1	1-1-0-0-1
Page 220a	Isaac Harmon	0-1-0-2-1-0-0-1	1-1-0-1-0-0-0-1 (Elizabeth Luster wife)
Page 220a	Jacob Carter	0-2-0-1-1-0-1	3-1-2-1-0-1 (Polly Guffie wife)
Page 220a	Benjamin Carter	0-2-1-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-2 (Ezekiel Carter's son)
Page 221a	Ezekiel Carter	0-2-1-1-2-0-0-1	1-0-1-1-0-0-1 (Martha Stanley wife)
Page 221a	John Harmon Sr.	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1
Page 221a	John Harmon Jr.	1-1-0-1-0-1	1-0-0-0-1
Page 221a	John Carter Sr.	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-1-0-0-0-0-0-1 (Levi Carter's brother)
Page 221a	John Carter Jr.	0-3-0-0-0-1	0-0-1 (John Carter Sr's son)
Page 221a	Giles Carter	1-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1	0-1-2-1-0-0-1
Page 226a	William Carter	0-0-2-1-0-1	3-2-0-0-0-1-1

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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If you noticed, in Greene County all the Pratts were under 39 years of age.

In 1830 Monroe County

		Males	Females	
Page 81	Trenton Harmon	1-0-0-0-1	2-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's cousin)
Page 81	Dooley Harmon	1-0-0-0-1	1-1-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's cousin)
Page 82	Vincent Blanton	1-1-1-0-0-1	1-1-2-0-0-1	(Cynthia Pratt's Br-n-law)
Page 82	Jesse Carter	0-1-1-2-0-0-1	0-0-1-0-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's father)
Page 85	Caleb Carter Jr.	1-0-0-1-0-1	1-0-1-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's cousin)
Page 92	John Carter	0-1-0-1-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's brother)
Page 92	George Carter	0-1-1-1-1	2-1-0-1-1	
Page 94	Joseph Harmon	0-1-1-0-1-0-0-1	0-0-0-1	
Page 99	Joshua Blanton	2-0-0-0-1	2-0-0-0-1	(Cynthia Pratt's Br-n-law)
Page 102	John Blanton	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	(Cynthia Pratt's Fa-n-law)
Page 102	Ezekiel Blanton	0-0-1-0-1	1-0-0-0-1	(Cynthia Pratt's Br-n-law)
Page 104	Margaret Carter	1-1-1	0-0-1-1-0-1-0-1	
Page 105	Rueben Luster	1-0-0-0-0-1	1-1-1-0-1	
Page 105	Levi Carter	2-0-0-0-1	1-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's brother)
Page 107	John Carter	0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's uncle)
Page 110	Micajah Carter	2-1-1-0-0-1	2-1-1-0-0-1	
Page 110	Henderson Carter	1-1-0-0-1	2-1-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's brother)
Page 110	Allen Carter	2-2-0-1-0-1	1-1-2-0-0-1	(Elizabeth Trimm wife)
Page 110	James Carter	1-0-0-0-1	2-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's brother)
Page 110	Jabish Carter	1-0-1-0-0-1	3-1-2-0-0-1	
Page 111	*Henry Pratt	2-1-0-0-1-0-0-1	2-1-0-0-1	(Nancy (CARTER))
Page 111	John S.W. Carter	2-0-0-0-1	1-2-0-1-1	
Page 111	Lewis Carter	1-0-0-0-0-1	2-1-0-0-1-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's brother)
Page 113	Stephen Harmon	0-2-1-0-0-0-0-1	1-0-1-1-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's uncle)
Page 113	Caleb Carter	1-0-1-1-0-0-0-1	1-1-2-1-1-0-1-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's uncle)
Page 115	Stephen Harmon Jr.	0-0-0-1	1-0-0-0-1	(Nancy Carter's cousin)
Page 115	John M. Harmon	2-0-0-0-1	1-0-0-0-1	
Page 144	Lewis Blanton	0-0-0-0-1	3-0-0-0-1	(Claiborne Blanton's son)
Page 144	Claiborne Blanton	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-3-0-0-0-1	(William Blanton's Sr's son)
Page 144	Burrell Blanton	1-0-0-1	0-0-0-1	(Claiborne Blanton's son)

As I said previously, Henry Pratt is the only Pratt to make it to Monroe Co., TN. It appears all the other Pratts stayed in Greene Co., TN. Obviously, they weren't related to Henry Pratt.

Also, as you can see it looks like Henry followed his father-in-law Jesse Carter Sr. and Nancy's brothers to Monroe County.

Trenton and Dooley Harmon moved from Monroe County first to Independence Co., Arkansas (which was along the southern "Trail of Tears" route and part of the Arkansas Cherokee Nation) and then Trenton got in trouble with the law and moved to Crawford Co., MO in 1858/1860.

Joshua Blanton, who married Bethany "Nancy" (**HARMON**) first moved to Scott Co., MO about 1843 then Madison Co., MO and eventually moved to Crawford Co., MO. between 1847/1850.

Vincent Blanton left Monroe Co., TN and moved to Morgan Co., KY. 1840/1850.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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All of Nancy (**CARTER**)'s siblings stayed in Monroe, McMinn or Bradley County, TN with the following exceptions...

- John Carter moved to Dallas Co., MO after 1852.
- Jesse Carter Jr. moved to Christian Co., KY between 1850/1854.
- Peter Carter moved to Davies Co., MO. after 1860.

I have found no evidence that any of the Carters, or Harmons moved to any county close to Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt in Missouri in the same time frame of 1837/1838.

Therefore, Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt's move to Missouri was an accident and not planned, deliberate, intentional or premeditated.

It appears, the Carters **did not** take Henry under their wing and help the family.

It also appears; Henry Pratt & family were squatters both in Tennessee and Missouri.

MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE

On 10 Jul 1829/1830, [Nancy Maria Pratt](#)⁷² was born in either Greene Co. or Monroe Co. depending on when they moved from Greene.

In March of 1831/1832⁷³, [Alexander R. Pratt](#) was born in Monroe Co., TN or northwest Georgia.

This confusion lies in the Cherokee Land Lottery of 1832 of Georgia. One of the requirements to participate in the Land Lottery was residency of at least 3 years.

Since Henry Pratt was in Monroe County, TN for the 1830 census, then he must have moved to Georgia a short time after 1830 or he misrepresented his residency to the lottery officials.

This puts Alexander's birth either in Monroe Co., TN or Indian Lands at Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

⁷² Date from 1830 census states she was born 1825/1830. Date from 1840 census states she was born 1825/1830. Date from 1850 census states she was born 1830. Date from 1860 census states she was born (can't find) Date from 1870 census states she was born 1830.

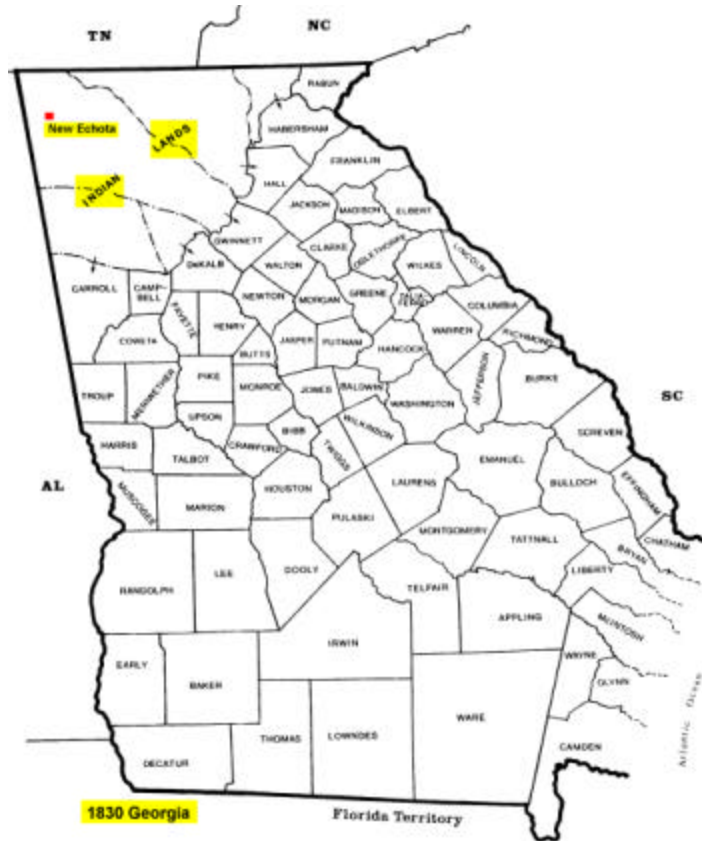
⁷³ The 1840 census states he was born in 1830/1835. The 1850 census states he was born in 1832. The 1860 census states he was born in 1836. The 1870 census states he was born in 1833. The 1880 census states he was born in 1834. The 1900 census states he was born in March 1832. The 1910 census states he was born in 1833. The tombstone marker states 1831. If his sister, Sarah Ann was born in 1834 then he was born March 1831/1833.

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In 1828, Gold was discovered in the Georgia territory. But, there was one problem to the whites, it was on Cherokee land...again.



After gold was discovered in Georgia in 1828, word spread like the wind and white men began to pour into the Georgia territory harassing the Cherokee peoples just like they had done in Monroe County. They would destroy crops, steal cattle and beat or kill the Cherokee people for possession of their lands.

The Cherokees under Chief John Ross and others filed for regress through the courts and asked for relief from the marauding white settlers. There were several men in Congress who sympathized with the plight of the Indians and one of those was David Crockett. In fact, Davy lost his run for reelection because of his defense of Indian rights. After his defeat for reelection, bitter, he left Tennessee for Texas.

Like a snowball rolling downhill, events were gaining momentum that would change the lives of millions of people.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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GOVERNMENTAL TREACHERY

In 1828, when Andrew Jackson was elected president, his campaign platform was based on promises he made to remove the Indians and drive them west of the Mississippi River.

In 1830, he spearheaded the “Indian Removal Act” through congress.

This Act called for the removal of all the, what was known as the 5 “Civilized tribes” of the south; the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Creek Indians and move them west of the Mississippi River to be completed before 23 May 1838.

After the discovery of gold in Georgia, the Georgia Legislature, passed several illegal laws designed to remove the Indians from their borders.

Some of these laws stated; no Indian had the right to own property, testify against white men, or assemble or file for regress in the Georgia courts.

This completely removed the Indians from all their land ownership and rights.

A Cherokee delegation went to Washington for regress in the federal courts.

However, unknown to them, Jackson struck a deal with Georgia and promised the Georgia legislature, if they would drive the Indians west of the Mississippi the government would look the other way.

Georgia agreed, and the invasion of the white settlers began with the blessings of the Jackson administration.

The Georgia legislature sent troops to drive and imprisoned all those who *helped or assisted* the Indians in fighting this injustice.

Some white settlers didn't even wait for the Indians to leave their homes before they took possession of their properties.

Several of the Indian delegation hired William Wirt, of William Wirt and Associates of Baltimore, a prominent attorney to represent them before the Supreme Court of The United States.

They were asking for relief from the Georgia legislation and to dismiss the laws which they felt were unconstitutional that had been imposed on the sovereignty of the Cherokee nation.

Georgia passed laws dissolving the Cherokee Legislature, and any Cherokees who spoke against removal were arrested and imprisoned indefinitely.

Cherokee land and property were taken by force and there was no regress.

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On March 6, 1831 William Wirt before the Supreme Court stated the following⁷⁶:

"We know that whatever can be properly done for this unfortunate people will be done by this honorable court. Their cause is one that must come home to every honest and feeling heart. They have been true and faithful to us and have a right to expect a corresponding fidelity on our part. Through a long course of years they have followed our counsel with the docility of children. Our wish has been their law. We asked them to become civilized, and they became so. They assumed our dress, copied our names, pursued our course of education, adopted our form of government, embraced our religion, and have been proud to imitate us in every thing in their power."

"They have watched the progress of our prosperity with the strongest interest, and have marked the rising grandeur of our nation with as much pride as if they belonged to us. They have even adopted our resentments; and in our war with the Seminole tribes, they voluntarily joined our arms, and gave effectual aid in driving back those barbarians from the very state that now oppresses them. They threw upon the field, in that war, a body of men who descend from the noble race that were once the lords of these extensive forests-men worthy to associate with the "Iion," who, in their own language, "walks upon the mountain tops." They fought side by side with our present chief magistrate, and received his personal thanks for their gallantry and bravery."

Chief Justice John Marshall declined their petition because he stated the "court had no jurisdiction over a domestic, dependant nation".⁷⁷

In reply, John Ridge one of the delegation stated the following:⁷⁸

"You asked us to throw off the hunter and warrior state: We did so-you asked us to form a republican government: We did so-adopting your own as a model. You asked us to cultivate the earth, and learn the mechanic arts: We did so. You asked us to learn to read: We did so. You asked us to cast away our idols, and worship your God: We did so."

The Supreme Court reviewed the treaties the Georgian legislature had violated and the civil rights of the Indians and in a second ruling stated that the laws of the Georgia legislature were unconstitutional and the imprisoned citizens were to be released.

"The Cherokee nation then," the decision had read, "is a distinct community, occupying its own territory, with boundaries accurately described, in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter but with the assent of the Cherokees themselves or in conformity with treaties and the acts of Congress."

⁷⁶ "The Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of The Cherokee Nation" by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books New York Page 241-242.

⁷⁷ "The Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of The Cherokee Nation" by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books New York Page 242.

⁷⁸ Ibid. Page 254.

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*Over the subsequent days, the elation was dispersed, dampened by the realization that Georgia had not released the missionaries after all, that President Jackson was not enforcing the Supreme Court ruling. He was quoted as remarking: "**John Marshall has made his decision; let him enforce it now if he can.**"*

*Chief John Ridge saw three possible meanings in the statement: let him enforce it if he is able because I don't see a way to do so; let him stay well clear of invading the President's authority; or simply, I don't want to enforce it, and I won't.*⁷⁹

This is why I call Jackson and his administration criminal for his failure to enforce the Supreme Court's decision, namely to protect the Cherokees from the Georgia legislature and murdering hordes of white men.

STATES RIGHTS

Another important but often-overlooked problem had developed between the States and the Government in Washington.

Most people think that the Civil War was fought over the slave issue. This was the smoke, but not the fire.

The slave issue is what the government sold to the northern peoples because slavery was an **emotionally charged issue**.

The true reason for the civil war was the struggle of the American government to establish dominance over state rights.

The States had become so powerful in their legislature; they openly defied the central government including the judicial system.

Some people are under the impression that after the American Revolution we were the United States. Incorrect!

Each state had its own form of government and held no allegiance to the federal government... united they were not!

Each state wrote their own laws and enforced their own ideals according to the whims and wishes of *their* citizens within their territory.

As additional states were being created and added to the Union, the governmental leaders became aware that laws and enforcement of laws were at odds from state to state.

This arrogance was prominent when the Georgia Legislature refused to obey the Supreme Court ruling concerning the Cherokees.

⁷⁹ Ibid. Page 255

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Also, in my lifetime, I saw an Alabama Governor, George Wallace, defy a nation in **1963** and refuse to allow blacks to attend the University of Alabama with whites.

Only after federal troops were sent to Alabama and escorted the students to class, under armed guard for a period of several months did acceptance follow and public prejudice began to *gradually* diminish.

The struggle for control and interpretation of laws began to divide this country after the revolution and the government of Washington was held hostage to the inclination and propensity of the states due to its diminished influence and was considered irrelevant.

The catalyst for war or the straw that broke the camel's back was the slavery issue.

If it wasn't slavery, it would have been something else, like woman's rights, but the government needed to exert its control over independent states and enforce its federal laws as primary and state's rights as secondary.

This was the main cause of the Civil war and is still a conflict in the government today.

THE MOVE TO GEORGIA

Sometime between 1830/1832, Henry Pratt moved to Georgia and took up residence.

The reason we know this is that he gave Fort Oglethorpe⁸⁰ as his residence in the lottery drawing. If he actually lived there...is another story.

I feel the reason he may have moved was that the Cherokee national headquarters had been moved from Chota, Monroe Co., TN to New Echota in Georgia.

As the whites encroached onto Indian lands the safety of the Cherokees shifted from eastern Tennessee to northwestern Georgia. Maybe he was looking for gold. Maybe he was trying to find a safe haven for his family.

According to previous treaties with other tribes, the Indians were supposed to be removed by peaceful means but Jackson decided they weren't leaving fast enough.

He informed the Georgia legislature to "light a fire under them."

Georgia decided to appease the white settlers and gain access to all the Cherokee lands by what we now know as the Cherokee Land Lottery of 1832.

However, the lottery story begins in 1802 when President Thomas Jefferson wanted more land for expansion.

⁸⁰ "The Cherokee Land Lottery of 1832", by James F. Smith (1838) Harper & Brothers, New York, page 50, 17th District, First Section, Cherokee, #30 Henry Pratt, Hargrove's, Oglethorpe.

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JEFFERSON PLANTS THE SEEDS OF TREACHERY

Georgia claimed all the land west to the Mississippi River and did not like the Indians possessing any portion thereof.

Jefferson proposed a deal with the Georgia legislature now known as the Georgia Compact. If Georgia would cede all lands west to the Mississippi beyond her borders, the government would not honor the Indian's land ownership rights.

The agreement was official and a few years later, two new states were born: Alabama and Mississippi.

Jefferson also contrived a scheme to seize Indian lands by fraud. The government established stores known as a "factory" or trading post in Indian territories to sell goods, supplies and implements to the natives on *credit*. When the debt was high enough the government would liquidate the debts by land cessions.

In his book, "The Southern Tribes" by R.S. Cotterill, he states the following:⁸¹

Williams, Beginnings of West Tennessee, 63. Jefferson said that the way the government could obtain Chickasaw lands was "to establish among the Chickasaws a factory for furnishing them all, the necessaries and comforts they may wish (spirituous liquors excepted) encouraging them and especially their leading men to run in debt for these beyond their individual means of paying; and whenever in that situation they will always cede land to rid themselves of debt." See also I. O. R., Retired Classified Files, Riley to Meigs, November 29, 1806: "Mr. Hockker [Hooker] told...that when he was at the Norard that in conversation with Mr. Jefferson he asked him if he could get the Cherokee to run in debt to the amount of ten or twelve thousand dollars in the public store. Mr. Hockker told him for answer fifty thousand. Well, says he, that is the way I intend to git there countrey for to git them to run in debt to the publick store and they will have to give there lands for payment. Mr. Hockker's answer was if that is your deturmeanation you must git sum other pursun to keep the store."

In the book, "The Mighty Chieftains",⁸² this plan was conceived during the conflict with the Shawnees in the Indiana, Ohio regions then called the Old Northwest Territory.

"In 1803 part of the region became the state of Ohio. The Old Northwest was filling up with settlers. That same year, President Thomas Jefferson detailed the government's Indian policy in a letter to William Henry Harrison, who had resigned from the army to hold various administrative posts in the Northwest Territory.

The plan, Jefferson wrote, was to convert the Indians to agriculture: "When they withdraw themselves to the culture of a small piece of land, they will perceive how useless to them are their extensive forests, and will be willing to pare them off from time to time in exchange for necessaries for their farms and families.

⁸¹ "The Southern Tribes" The Story of the Civilized Tribes before Removal, by R.S. Cotterill (1954) University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Oklahoma, Footnote 2 page 140.

⁸² "The Mighty Chieftains" Time Life Books, (1993) The American Indians series, Alexandria, Virginia, pages 59,60.

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To promote this disposition, we shall push our trading houses and be glad to see the good and influential individuals among them run in debt, because we observe that when these debts get beyond what the individuals can pay, they become willing to lop them off by a cession of lands."

*The policy worked wonders. By 1806 Harrison had induced various tribes to give **up 70 million additional acres**, all of them west of the supposedly inviolable border set by the Treaty of Greenville.*

As for converting the tribes to the white man's way of life, however, results were decidedly mixed. Some Shawnees, under the leadership of Black Hoof, set up a farming community in the Auglaize Valley with the help of the U.S. government and Quaker missionaries. But most refused to give up their traditional ways.

The Shawnee culture was in crisis. The land was overhunted; the introduction of woven fabrics, metal tools, and other trade goods had extinguished ancient crafts; smallpox, whooping cough, influenza, venereal diseases, and alcoholism were taking a grievous toll.

Most frontier whites considered the Indians savages and wanted them exterminated. Indians seeking trade were often murdered by frontier ruffians. Under the cultural onslaught, the tribes of the Old Northwest began to wither away."

Shocking display of arrogance by the leadership of this hostile government. And we call the natives...savages.

PARTNERS IN CRIME

Georgia began abuses against the Indians with the blessing of the American government and commenced with the first land lottery in 1805, followed by 1807, 1820, 1821, 1827 and now 1832 systematically stealing the 5 Nation Tribe's land and property.

The only requirement needed to participate in the 1832-land lottery was; you had to have been a resident of the Georgia for at least three years.

Based on this requirement, I feel Henry Pratt and family had moved from Monroe County to Georgia or claimed they did.

Many researchers are mistaken and thought that you had to serve in the American Revolution, in order to participate but this assumption is in error.

"The Cherokee Land Lottery" by James F. Smith (1838) forward.⁸³

"While the surveying was being carried out, those persons who had lived in Georgia three years immediately prior to the Acts of the General Assembly, registered to draw in the Lottery in their counties of residence.

⁸³ "The Cherokee Land Lottery" by James F. Smith (1838) Georgia Genealogical Reprints, Vidalia, Georgia, forward

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Their names, together with the numbers of the lots and districts, were sent to Milledgeville, then the capital of the state, and on specified days tickets from two wheels or drums were drawn simultaneously, one from the wheel holding the name tickets and one from the drum holding the land lot tickets.

In this way, a person knew which lot he had drawn and if he subsequently paid to the state a grant fee of \$18.00, a grant was issued to the lot he had drawn. This grant from the State of Georgia was his title to the lot and from that time he could do whatever he wished with his property, although the state did not require that he live on it or cultivate it."

This Lottery dissolved the lands of the Cherokee, which once stretched, to the Ohio River.

Henry Pratt, David Harmon, Jesse Carter Sr. (Henry's father-in-law), Robert Carter, Jesse Carter Jr., were all participants in the drawing.

This requirement of being a resident of Georgia for 3 years puts forth an interesting question.

Was this Henry Pratt who is listed as residing at Hargrove's District at Oglethorpe our Henry Pratt of Monroe County, TN.?

Fort Oglethorpe is located a few miles south of Chattanooga and a few miles north of New Echota the National Cherokee capital located in Georgia.

It appears that since his father-in-law and brother-in-law were involved in the lottery, he may have also participated on their recommendation.

Therefore, his residence at the time of the drawing in 1832 was the northwest quadrant of Georgia, the headquarters of the Cherokee nation.

One of the stipulations of the lottery was that the recipients could not take possession of the land until the present inhabitants (Cherokees) vacated the property. The white lottery winners dismissed the rules and began taking possession immediately.

This led to violent removal of the Indians so that the white men could take possession. Indians were removed forcibly without their belongings and driven from their homes by bayonet.

Chief John Ross filed a lawsuit in Federal Court to regain his properties and when he got back from Washington he found white lottery winners occupying his home, selling his livestock, running his ferry with his family forced to live in two rooms of the house waiting for his return.

Jackson's arrogance and contempt for the law was equaled by the fraudulent promises he made to the 5 Civilized Tribes before, during and after the removal.

He knew when he promised food, clothing and supplies by treaty to the Indians that it would take several years for those treaties to be ratified by Congress. In the meantime, disposed Cherokees and others were without those supplies waiting for Congress to act.

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But Georgia was only a glimpse of the atrocities that were to take place against the Indians in a few short years.

What makes this of importance to our research of Henry Pratt is that in order to understand his movements, locations and attitude we have to understand the political climate at that time.

On the next page you can see the location of the drawing for Henry Pratt and the Carters.

Henry's homeland was in Tennessee and the lottery put him over close to South & North Carolina.

Did Henry ever take possession of the land? I think not. I have written to the counties where those records are kept inquiring about his purchase and they have found no record of his filing the required \$18.00 fee.

Since Henry's drawing was so far away from his native home, I don't think he ever took possession of the property otherwise **we would have all been born in Georgia.**

The Georgia militia arrested even missionaries who were helping the Indians and contrary to the federal laws of the government, the Georgians made new laws to suit their purposes which was to eradicate the natives from Georgia territory.

The Georgia Militia ran off all the Cherokees and other tribes by bayonet and Henry had to flee back into Tennessee for safety.

The reason I think they moved back to Monroe County was due to the environment and political unrest in Georgia concerning the whites brutal removal of the Cherokees.

A hostile atmosphere was not conducive to raising children in a safe environment.

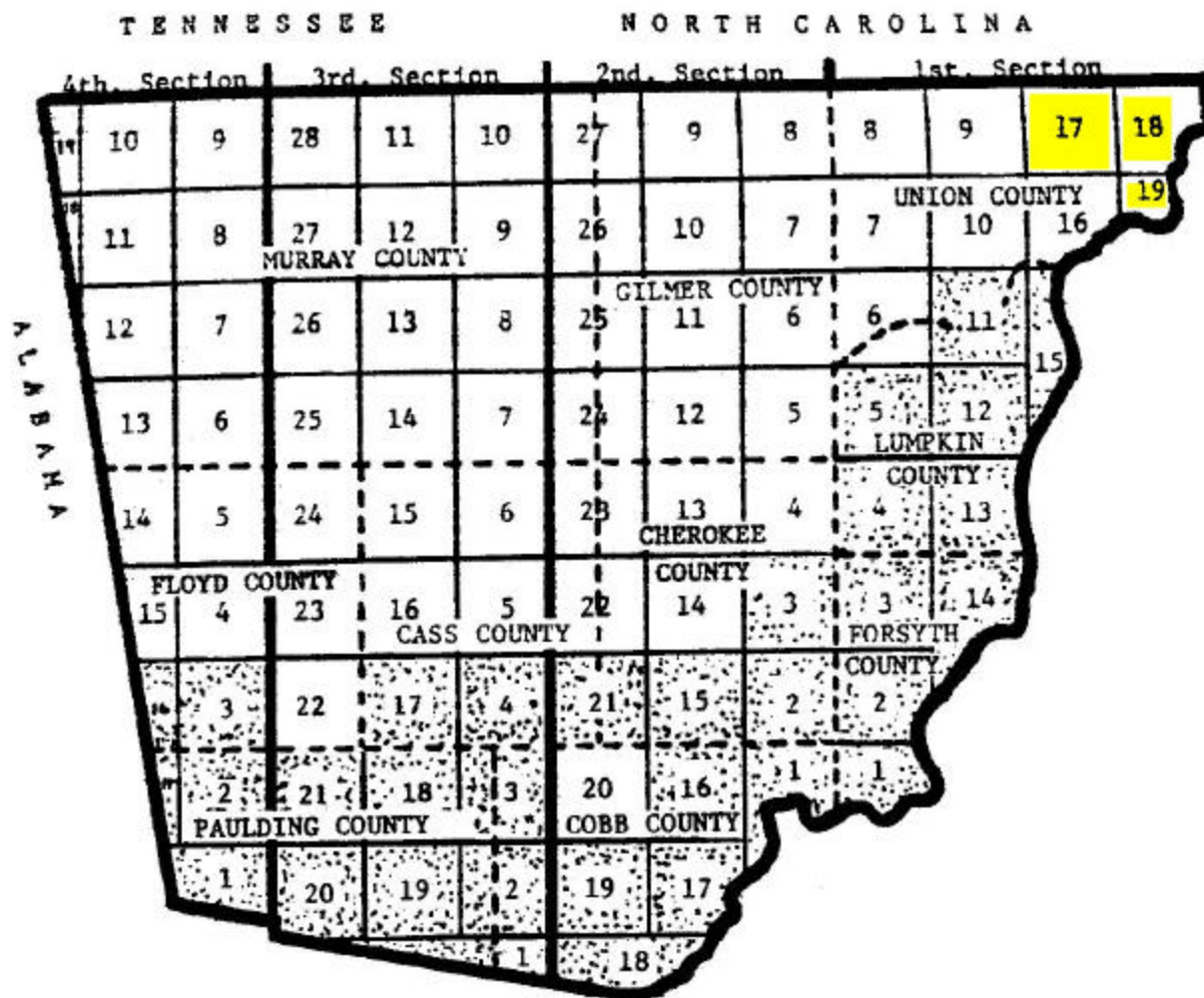
By 1832, the Pratt family consisted of Henry age 32 and Nancy age 28 and Susan age 11, James age 10, Lorenda age 4/5, unknown son 2/6, unknown son, 2/6, Nancy Maria age 2/3 and newborn Alexander.

Concerns for his family's safety would have prompted Henry to move back among the Carter in-laws of Monroe Co., TN.

On the page following the map is the lot location showing Henry's 160 acres.

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Georgia 1832 Land Lottery

THE LAND AREA OF THE CHEROKEE LOTTERY

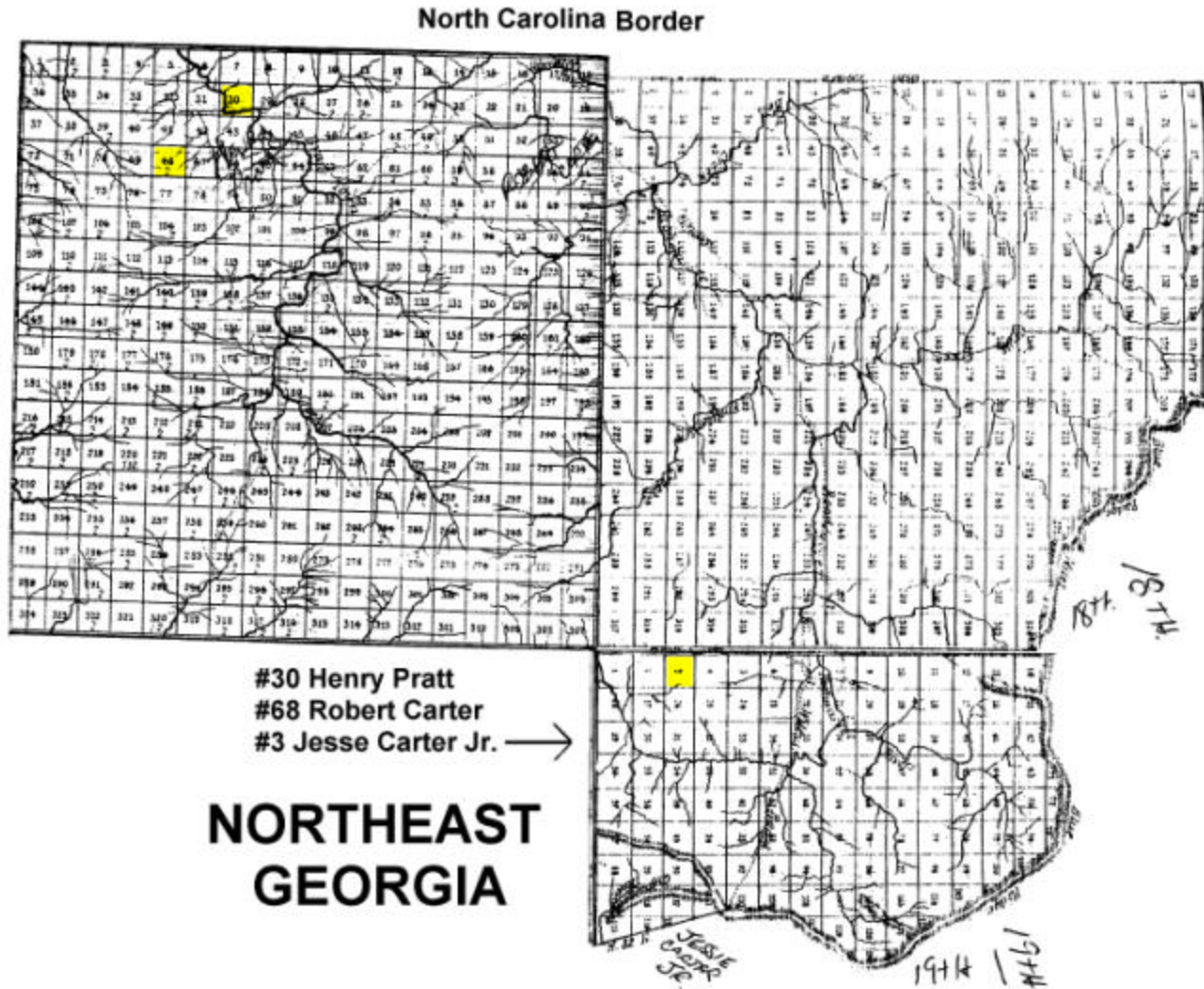
The numbered squares showing dots are the gold districts and the numbered squares without the dots are the land districts. This book shows only those who drew lots in the land districts. The ten counties shown are those created in 1832 immediately after the Land Lottery. The broken lines show the boundaries of the ten counties.

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Section 17 is Henry Pratt's lot.

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MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE

A few years later, in 1834, [Sarah Ann \(PRATT\)](#) is born in Monroe Co., TN.⁸⁴

In 1835-1836 [John Absalom Pratt](#) is born in Monroe Co., TN.⁸⁵

⁸⁴ Date from the 1840 census states she was born 1830/1835. Date from the 1850 census states she was born in 1836. Date from the 1860 census states she was born in 1834. Date from the 1870 census states she was born in 1835. Date from the 1880 census states she was born in 1834. Since the 1860 census was taken on 8 August 1860 and she is 26 then, and in the 1870 census taken on 11 April 1870 she is 35, and in the 1880 census she is 46 taken on 1 June 1880, then this puts her birth date between, April 11, 1834 and June 1, 1834.

⁸⁵ Date from the 1840 census states he was born 1835/1840. Date from the 1850 census states he was born in 1838. Date from the 1860 census states he was born in 1839. Date from the 1870 census states he was born in 1838. Date from the 1880 census states he was born in 1836. The date from tombstone states his birth as 14 Jan 1834. His birth date should be between 1835-1836.

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THE HENDERSON ROLL OF 1835

The government in anticipation of the fulfillment of the Indian Removal Act, decided to take a census roll of the known Cherokees in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee known now as the Henderson Roll⁸⁶ named after the compiler, Daniel Henderson.

Imperfect because of errors, the roll was a list of Indians, half-breeds, quadroons, whites and slaves connected by marriage. Only the heads of family were named.

The reason I bring this up at this time is included in that list are the names of several Prattz⁸⁷.

It does not mean that Henry Pratt was on the list, just that some Cherokees took the name of Pratt and used it as a family name.

Henry Pratt is not on the list, which is not surprising considering that most of the natives refused to cooperate with a government that was determined to kill them and destroy their way of life.

Many refused to participate in the roll and did not give their names.

If Henry Pratt is on the list he may have used his native Cherokee name instead of his adopted English name.

Nevertheless, the name Pratt was used by the Cherokee nation as an adopted family name.

⁸⁶ "Exploring your Cherokee Ancestry" by Thomas G. Mooney (1990) Cherokee National Historical Society, Page 7.

⁸⁷ "Cherokee Roots, Vol 1, Eastern Cherokee Rolls" by Bob Blankenship (1992) Bob Blankenship, P.O. Box 525, Cherokee, NC 28719.

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THE TREATY OF NEW ECHOTA, GEORGIA

When Lt. William Henry Harrison, later to become president, was fighting the Shawnees in Ohio in 1810/1814, he discovered a serious problem.

Each village was an entity unto itself. You had a war chief and a peace chief and any activity concerning the tribe, was put to a vote by the whole tribe. If you wished to form a treaty, you must visit each village and secure an agreement individually with that village.

The government decided this was unsatisfactory and appointed *their* spokesmen to the tribes. Sometimes they were natives and most times they were governmental puppets.

As the whites continued to encroach upon Indian domain, a great Chief rose up and declared war on the American government. His name was Tecumseh.

He decided that unless all Indians band together, to fight the whites, the Indians as a people would cease to be a nation and lose all their lands.

He traveled from Ohio to the Mississippi River through the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee and even into Florida rallying support for the cause.

Several tribes joined in the effort, but the Cherokee abstained and supported the new American government. They trusted the Americans and even fought in several wars on their behalf and felt the American government would help the Cherokee peoples and would not treat them like they had treated other tribes forcing them to move to Indian territory in the west.

Harrison finding it difficult to negotiate with Tecumseh decided he would secure a treaty for all the Shawnee lands from lesser chiefs. These were chiefs without the authority to negotiate contracts for the Shawnee nation.

Through bribery and alcohol, the lesser chiefs sold the land to the whites. This infuriated Tecumseh and the Shawnee peoples and they found a renewed spirit of hatred to continue war with the American government.

A short time later, in a battle with Harrison, Tecumseh was killed and the last hope of a combined Indian effort to battle the whites was lost.

Harrison's platform when he ran for President was based on his "brave" dispersions of the Native Americans.

Jackson took note of this effective but cowardly method of defeating the Indians and decided to use the same tactics years later when he became President in 1828.

It was the tribal custom that the entire Cherokee nation had to ratify any changes to sell tribal lands. The tribe owned all their land in common and not any individual owned the land. If any member sold land to the whites without tribal consent, they did so under the penalty of death.

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Jackson knew that the majority (90%) of the Cherokee Nation did not want to be relocated and he instructed his Indian Agents to find a group that were willing to relocate and strike a deal.

This group of Cherokees was Major Ridge, his son, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot and three hundred other Cherokees who met with Jackson's representatives and sold the Cherokee Nation's holdings for \$5 million without tribal consensus at New Echota on December 29, 1835.

The above members based their actions on the seditious statement "they were doing so for the protection and betterment of the tribe." As an outcome of the deal, each of the above men became wealthy.

After the signing of this fraudulent treaty, the wealthy treaty signers left the area between January 1837 and May of 1838 and settled in Arkansas in order to escape the wrath of the Cherokee peoples.

Falsely representing a nation of 14,000 to 20,000 members, these men knew they were signing their death warrants when they made this transaction and stated so. This statement was prophetic.

While the American government met with the treaty signers in secret, the true elected Chief of the Cherokees, John Ross, who resided at Flint Springs, Tennessee was not consulted or involved in the transaction.

"In 1835, government forces assembled a group of pro-removal Cherokees at New Echota to sign a removal treaty. Ross decided to travel to Washington to negotiate a separate treaty, which would allow the Cherokees to stay in the East.

On December 5, 1835, Ross was arrested at his home in Flint Springs by the Georgia Guard in order to prevent his departure to Washington.

His guest, John Howard Payne,⁸⁸ was also arrested. They were taken to Spring Place, Georgia and held for twelve days without charges. When he was released, Ross headed to Washington. The fateful New Echota Treaty was signed in his absence."⁸⁹

Jackson using his political influence wasted no time in having congress ratify this fraudulent treaty and on 17 May 1836 the treaty of New Echota was ratified by one vote.

In spite of protests from Senator John Calhoun, of South Carolina, Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky and Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts and Sam Houston, though a Jackson friend, they spoke vigorously against this treaty. The treaty passed and Jackson signed the treaty into law on the 23 of May.

⁸⁸ John Howard Payne, composer of the song "Home Sweet Home".

⁸⁹ "Footsteps of the Cherokees: a guide to the Eastern homelands of the Cherokee Nation", Vicki Rozema (1995) John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, page 112.

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The official deadline for all removal of the Cherokees was to be 23 May 1838.

A public outcry ensued and the voices of John Quincy Adams, and others had no effect on the Jackson administration.

Jackson's deceit extended to those previous tribes that had relocated to Arkansas and the Oklahoma territory, called Indian Territory by canceling their treaties and moving them further west to make room for the new Indians moving into the regions.

He was selling the same land to different tribes and we know what they call that kind of activity.

Under Chief John Ross, 12,000 Cherokees signed a petition and sent it to Congress to protest the New Echota Treaty. Their requests fell on deaf ears.

The Cherokees, thought they had a great relationship with Jackson, even saving his bacon in the 1813/1814 war with the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend. Jackson would have lost the war with the Creeks if the Cherokees had not come to his aid.

An interesting story is that at the time of the Creek war, a native woman was running for her life from the Jackson military and realizing her child's life was in danger, decided to protect her infant by falling on him feigning death. This child later became Osceola the great Chief of the Seminoles who defied the American government in the swamps of Florida years later.

During this time 1812/1814, Henry Pratt was a little boy and moved a great many times from place to place for protection and to avoid the whites.

He witnessed how the whites could not be trusted and how white men were guilty of deceitful business dealings.

He also saw the whites introduce alcohol, which robbed the minds of his people. How the whites enticed other tribes to wage war on his people. How their hunting grounds for hundreds of years was being depleted of game because of white hunters.

He also saw his tribal leaders volunteer to help the white government remove other tribes in various wars and in retrospect, with all his people had done to help the Americans, he now felt this new law was the supreme act of betrayal from their friend, Jackson.

The Cherokees could not and would not believe the government would remove them from their homeland under such dishonest and illegal procedures...so they refused to go.

They made no preparations to leave and decided they would put their faith in the American courts for regress.

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MARTIN VAN BUREN

In 1836, Jackson's vice-president, Martin Van Buren was elected to the Presidency. Van Buren vowed to maintain the Indian removal policy of Jackson. History would show that Martin Van Buren was one of the worst Presidents this country ever suffered.

In 1897 at the Salt Lake Temple, several of the prior presidents came in a spiritual visitation to the Prophet, John Taylor asking the Prophet to do their temple work.

John Taylor proceeded to perform the temple work of all the presidents of the United States save three...Grant, Buchanan and Van Buren.

These three presidents were not allowed by intervention of the Lord to have their temple work done at that time.⁹⁰

Not only had Van Buren persecuted the native Americans, but when the Latter Day Saints of the Church of Jesus Christ asked him for regress in Missouri from being forced out of Missouri and into Nauvoo, Illinois, Van Buren replied that if he sided with the Saints cause, he would lose Missouri votes and refused to help them.

From the Journal of Joseph Smith, Prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:⁹¹

"During my stay (1939) I had an interview with Martin Van Buren, the President, who treated me very insolently, and it was with great reluctance he listened to our message, which, when he had heard, he said, 'Gentlemen, your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you;' and 'If I take up for you I shall lose the vote of Missouri.' His whole course went to show that he was an office-seeker that self-aggrandizement was his ruling passion, and that justice and righteousness were no part of his composition. I found him such a man, as I could not conscientiously support at the head of our noble Republic. I also had an interview with Mr. John C. Calhoun, whose conduct towards me very ill became his station. I became satisfied there was little use for me to tarry, to press the just claims of the Saints on the consideration of the President and Congress, and stayed but a few days, taking passage in company with Porter Rockwell and Dr. Foster on the railroad and stages back to Dayton, Ohio."

You may ask what does this have to do with Henry Pratt? My reply is everything. This shows the attitude and mental state of the American Government towards any group with a grievance whether just or unjust, especially if it ran contrary to the government's strategies.

It wasn't just the natives who were persecuted but persecution was the daily fair of the American government in the nineteenth-century.⁹² After all, this is the government that saw no crime in slavery.

⁹⁰ At this time, the temple work for those three presidents has been done indicating they have repented for their actions and have received forgiveness from the Savior.

⁹¹ "Documentary History of the Church" Volume 4, page 80.

⁹² For further proof of American treachery, read about the American conquest of the Hawaiian Islands.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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PREPARATIONS

With the removal of the Choctaws in 1831/1832, the Creeks in 1836, Chickasaws in 1837/1838, Seminoles in 1836, all that was left to make the crime complete was the removal of the Cherokees.

General Winfield Scott in May 1838 under orders by President Van Buren assembled 7000 soldiers and volunteers in the Cherokee nation and began to build stockades. These stockades were designed to hold the Cherokee people until the forced removal began.

When General Scott arrived in New Echota, he took over the Cherokee's buildings and established barracks in the Council House.

Fifteen to Eighteen thousand Cherokees did not sign the bogus treaty and petitioned Congress to void the fraud that Jackson and his cohorts had perpetrated on their peoples. Their pleas were ignored and most of them refused to believe the government would force them to leave their homes. They planted their crops and carried on business as usual.

Reports from those Cherokees that had already left a few years earlier reported the harsh conditions they were forced to endure. The American government had promised them food and supplies along the way and failed to deliver on their promises.

When the earlier Cherokees arrived in Arkansas and Oklahoma they found that the land promised to them were being occupied by other tribes, which resulted in contention among all the disposed tribes. There were no homes or dwellings and everything had to be made from scratch.

Jackson and Van Buren knew this conflict with existing tribes would arise and were apathetic to the pleas of the Cherokees.

Many of the early people who left in 1835/1837 died on the trails out west and the survivors reported the harsh conditions and lack of necessities back to Chief John Ross at Ross' Landing (Chattanooga).

Consequently, the eastern Cherokees did not want to go west because they knew what was waiting for them.

Henry & Nancy Pratt were one of those Cherokee families that did not want to go west.

Evidence of this lies in Henry's participation of his only action in a legalized document.

Sometime between Aug 1836/1839⁹³, **Mary Elizabeth (PRATT)** was born to Henry & Nancy **(CARTER)** Pratt.

⁹³ Date from 1840 census states she was born 1836/1840. Date from 1850 census states she was born 1839. Date from 1860 census states she was born 1840. Date from 1870 census states she was born 1835. Date from 1880 census states she was born 1837. Date from 1900 census states she was born Aug 1836. Therefore, she was born Aug 1836/1839, most likely before they left for Missouri.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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EBENEZER MEETING HOUSE AND CAMP GROUNDS

On 2 July 1838⁹⁴, Henry Pratt was a trustee to the Ebenezer Meeting House and Camp Grounds. The following is the Deed:

This indenture made this 2nd of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight between JOHN DYER of the county of Monroe and state of Tennessee of the one part and HENRY PRATT, JOHN KEY, LEWIS CARTER, JOHN L. McKENZIE, JACOB C. BROWN, JOSEPH FORSHEE, GEORGE SELVIDGE, BENJAMIN PARKER, and LEWIS PARKS trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ebenezer meeting house and camp grounds all the county of the state aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that the said JOHN DYER for and consideration of the sum of fifty dollars when for the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted bargained & sold all the parcel of land lying in the Hiwassee District on Bat Creek being a part of the north west quarter of section twenty thru and second township in the second range east of the meridian beginning at the north west corner of said quarter running south with the line of said section Bat Creek thence down the creek with it's border where the creek crosses the east and west line on the north side of said quarter thence with a line beginning containing two acres of land whereon Ebenezer Meeting House and camp grounds by the same more or less and all the estate right title interest property and claims of him the said JOHN DYER of in and to the same to have and to hold the land hereby conveyed with all and angular the premises and very track and parcel thereof with the appointance with the aforementioned said trustees and the Methodist Episcopal Church forever and the said JOHN DYER for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth covenant promise and agree to and with the said trustees and their successors in office by these presents that he promises before now and forever hereafter shall remain free from all former and other gifts grants bargains sells charges and incumbencies does sell this land.

JOHN DYER

Lewis Carter is Henry Pratt's brother-in-law; Joseph Forshee is the brother or father of Elizabeth (**FORSHEE**), future wife of Lewis Carter⁹⁵. Lewis Carter is Nancy's youngest brother.

This deed should not be construed as a deliberate action of Henry Pratt. He is listed as one of the 9 trustees and therefore probably was sponsored by Lewis Carter and not an active participant in local affairs.

I wrote to Lynn McConkey of the Monroe County Archives inquiring about the above Church and found that there are two churches with similar names.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Eleazor Methodist Church.

He sent me articles on both churches but the deed does say Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church.

I have included the copies for you to decide which one was Henry Pratt's church.

⁹⁴ Monroe Co., TN Deed Book K Pages 384,5,6. Registrar of 2 July 1838 John Dyer to the trustees of Ebenezer Camp Grounds

⁹⁵ Marriage: Monroe Co., TN., Book "1": Lewis M. Carter and Elizabeth (**FORSHEE**) were married on 15 June 1841.

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122 EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Ebenezer Baptist Church, was organized in 1830 by Elder Daniel B. Buckner. He was also the first pastor serving seven years.

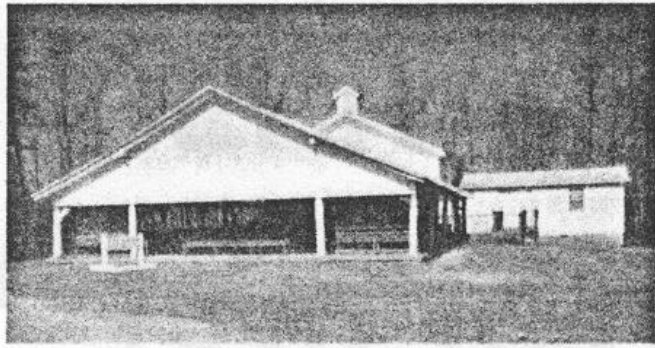
The church records from 1830 to 1953 were destroyed by a fire.



Ebenezer Baptist Church

Elder Achilles Stapp was probably the first pastor from 1835 to 1854.

This church is located on Ball Play in Monroe County.



Eleazor Methodist Church

123 ELEAZOR METHODIST CHURCH

The church is located one mile east of Mt. Vernon.

The Rev. William G. Brownlow was the first pastor in 1830-31. He was a circuit preacher. He went on to become the governor of TN. The Rev. W.H.H. Duggan, another pioneer Methodist circuit rider, was a member of Eleazor Camp Ground Methodist

Church. Two log buildings were originally erected on the above site, church and school.

The Rev. W.W. Byott, Rev. Thomas, Rev. Joseph Wiggins, and the Rev. Hasten Caste were some of the pastors of the log church. The arbor was built on the log church prior to 1861. About 1865-1870 the log building was replaced by the frame building that burned March 26, 1933. The church and arbor were replaced as much like the old one as possible.

The Rev. Coleman Campbell was probably the pastor at that time. Sampson Holcomb was the head carpenter, assisted by Crawford Collage, Joseph Marr and others. The trustees were: Dr. Louis Miller, James A. Dyer (both local preachers), G.A. Spillman, Joseph Boyd, and Richard Marshall⁹⁶. About five and one half acres were deeded to them by Joseph Boyd.

Eleazor became an important gathering place for camp meetings. Camp cabins were built around the church on three sides and people gathered every year for camp Sunday as many as four thousand would come. They still have a Home Coming the first Sunday in June every year.

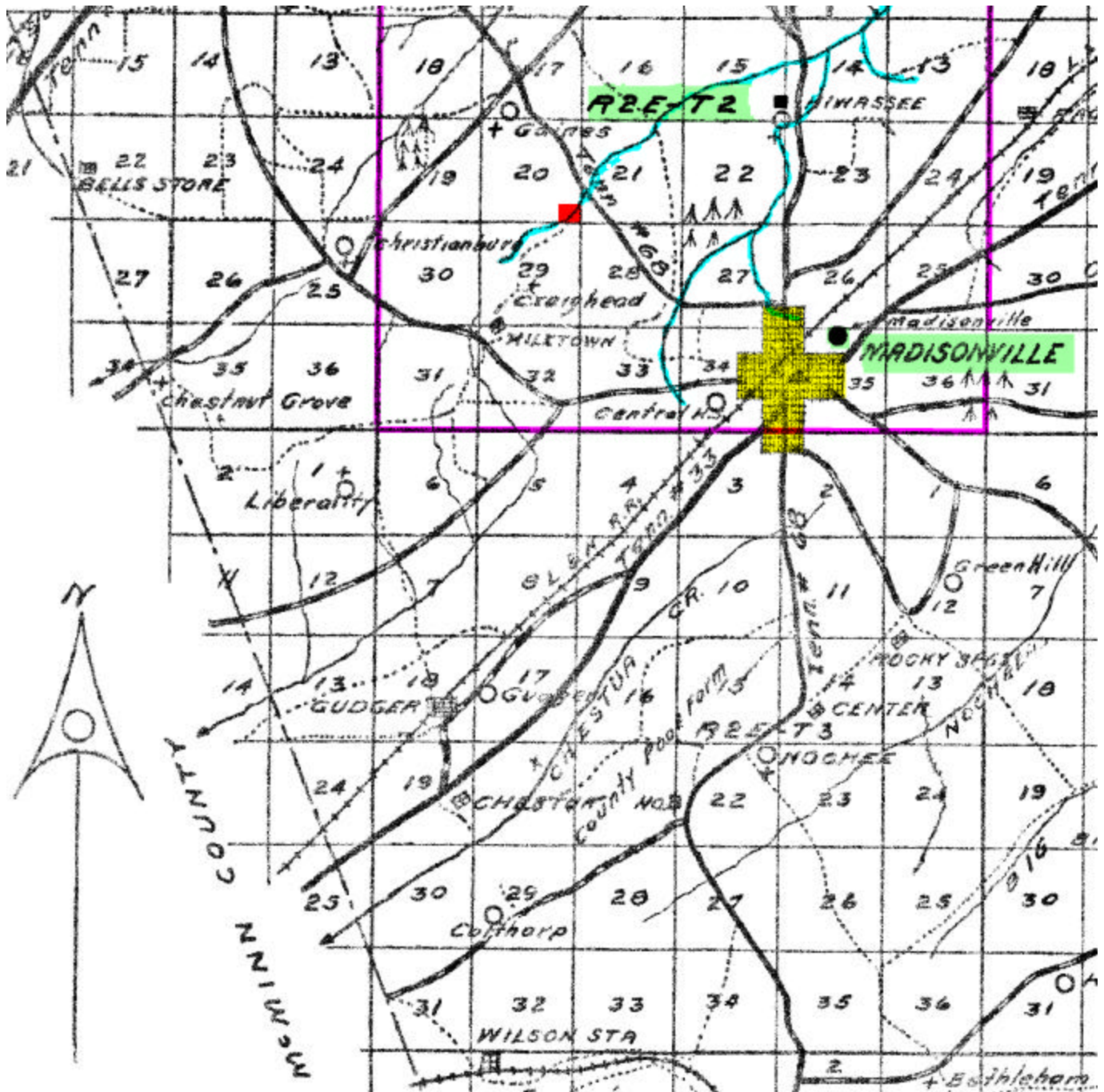
In the early days they came in wagons drawn by oxen, cooked on one common fire and slept in the camps. The camps were owned by Col. Joseph Boyd, G.A. Spillman, Landerman Cardin, John Burger, Ben J. Ellis, W.M. Richeson, James McConkey, and Larkin Cardin, Joseph Marr, and others.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ Could he be the same Richard Marshall living with the Absalom Blanton family in the 1860 census of Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO?

⁹⁷ Copy from newspaper article. Submitted by: Katherine Morgan Canada, 4924 Parker Loop Rd., Birchwood, TN 37398

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The **Purple** border represents the Township. The **Green** is Madisonville and the Range and Township number. The **Blue** line is Bat Creek. The **Red** is the location of Ebenezer Methodist Church and Campground and **Jesse Carter Sr's homestead**.

I believe the Methodist Church was Henry and Nancy's church. As you can see it was located off Bat Creek, which is where the Carters, Harmons, Lusters and Blantons took up residence.

This is the first and last and only known legal action of Henry Pratt in Tennessee.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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THE MIGRATION WESTWARD

Smoking gun question: With his in-laws all around for financial as well as moral support; after spending at least 18 years⁹⁸ in Greene and Monroe County Tennessee; at the age of 38, with a wife of 36 and children aged 19, 18, 17, 9, 7, 5, 4 and a newborn; with the opportunity to get 1.5 million acres of Indian land for free; Henry Pratt decides to pick up his family and move through the winter, the worst time of the year to travel; to a far away place called Washington Co., Missouri without any supporting in-laws, money or prospects for financial gain. Why? **Because he had to!!**

Also consider, Absalom Blanton having been born in Greene Co., TN and at the age of 38 with a wife, Cynthia (PRATT) of 28 and children of the ages, 12, 11, 10, 7, 4, 3, and 1, landowner, prospering and living in a reasonable proximity of his relatives, decides to move to a strange land called Franklin Co., MO. Why? **Because he had to!!**

It does not make sense. If free or cheap land is what Henry and Absalom wanted, why didn't they stay in Tennessee or Georgia with all the free land opening up as the Cherokees vacated?

Why didn't any of the Carters or Harmons accompany them on their journey westward to Missouri?

Monroe County would be void of Cherokees in a few months and all that land would be theirs for the taking, if they stayed. The Carters did...and they took the land.

Houses, barns, crops and fruit trees along with livestock and good fertile land were his for the taking.

Why did they leave at the most opportune time of their lives?

Because they had to ... Henry Pratt and Cynthia (Pratt) Blanton were Cherokee Indians!!!!

Continue on and see the mounting evidence.

On June 21, 1982, I asked Louis "Lou" Edward Bobbit, grandson of Thomas & Lina (PRATT) Callahan if his grandma "Lina" ever told them how the Pratts came to Missouri. He stated that Polina (PRATT)⁹⁹ often told the story of how the family came from Tennessee in a cart pulled by oxen. He also said Polina was a midwife¹⁰⁰ and has delivered much of the population of Cherryville, Crawford Co., MO.

If they came by oxen, then they were not financially sound and were lacking funds. This brings up another question; if they were not financially sound then why undertake the journey in the fall of 1838 through the dead of winter?

⁹⁸ If Henry had been born in Tennessee, then he would have been there for 38 years before the move to Missouri.

⁹⁹ Polina "Lina" Pratt is a daughter of Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt, Alexander is Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt's son.

¹⁰⁰ Being a midwife was an honored and revered occupation for Cherokee women.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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THE FORCED REMOVAL

In May of 1838, four thousand regulars and three thousand volunteers under the command of General Winfield Scott began building stockades for the removal of the Cherokees.

There were 5 stockades in Alabama, 13 stockades in Georgia, 8 in Tennessee and 5 in North Carolina. There were 10 internment camps in Tennessee.¹⁰¹ There were 3 departure points.

- At Ross's Landing on the Tennessee River now Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- Gunter's Landing at Guntersville, Alabama.
- Old Agency on the Hiwassee River at Charleston and Calhoun, Tennessee.

When Henry and Nancy moved back to Tennessee from Georgia, we know they moved back to Monroe County because in July of 1838 Henry is a trustee for the Eleazor Methodist Church.

The closest stockade was at Hiwassee Agency at Charleston or Calhoun. Charleston was the main encampment and embarkation point. Between eight and thirteen thousand Cherokees were camped in an area twelve miles long by four miles wide. See Map¹⁰² on next page.

The Cherokees were forced to endure the severe summer heat compounded by a severe drought waiting for the cool weather to break.

This is probably where they were brought. Charleston, Tennessee is located on the border and is in Bradley County where many of the Carters and Harmons eventually settled.

Calhoun, Tennessee is on the other side of the border and is located in McMinn County where Jesse Carter and some of his children moved sometime between 1840/1850.

I imagine while Henry & Nancy's family were in the stockade, the Carters and Harmons and Blantons visited them and brought them food and provisions.

Alexander, son of Henry & Nancy, named one of his children Cleveland Pratt. Notice on the map the location of Cleveland, Tennessee.

Concerning Absalom Blanton, there is no evidence that there was a close relationship with the Pratts. Absalom lived in Greene County and Henry lived 3 counties away in Monroe.

Absalom was a white man, who married an Indian and voluntarily moved to Franklin Co., MO to join his brother Abner in 1838. He either left with the B. B. Cannon group in 1837 or came on his own in 1838 with maybe some others.

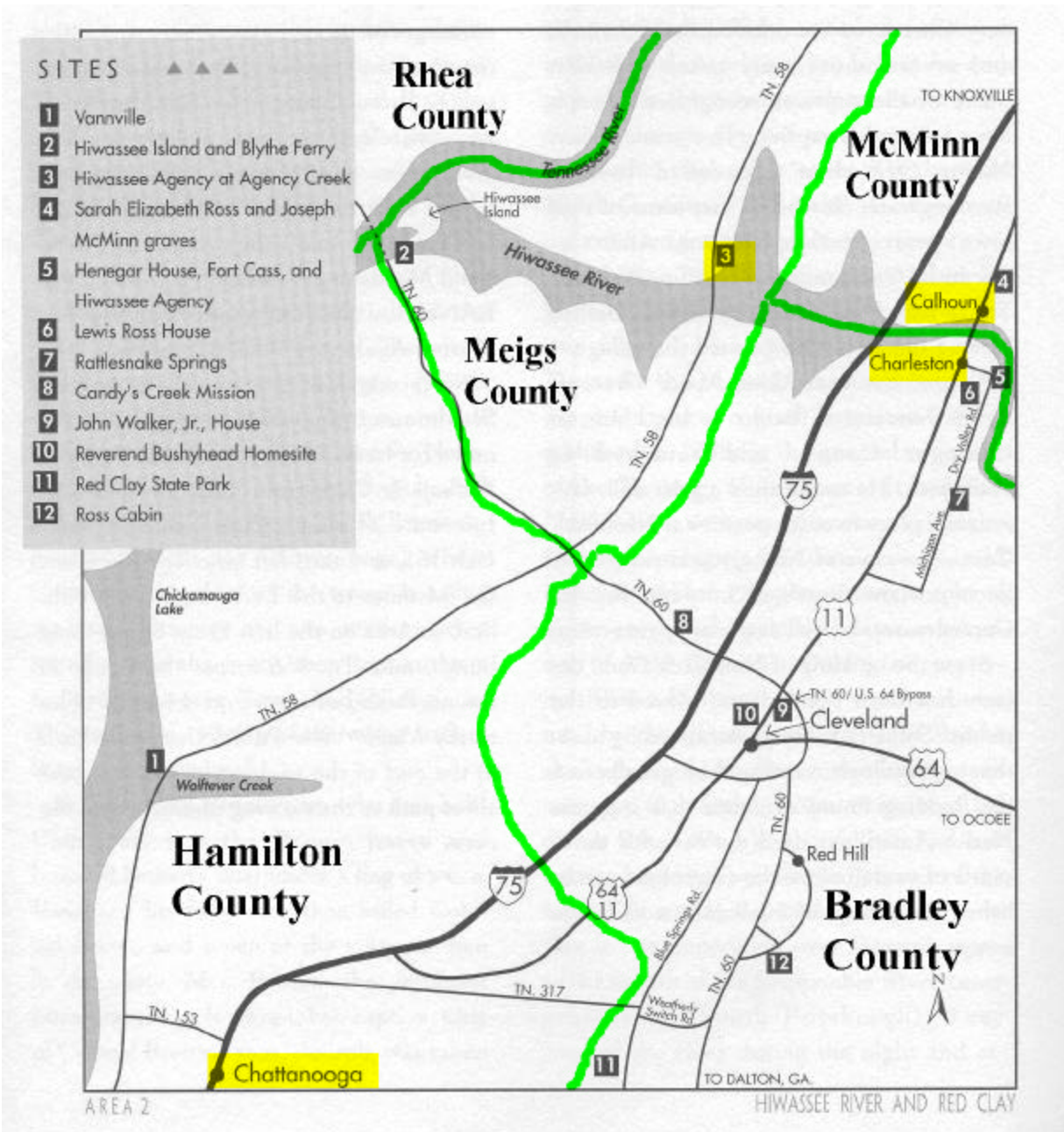
It wasn't until he moved to Hamilton Hollow did the close relationship with the Pratts materialize in the 1840's.

¹⁰¹ "Footsteps of the Cherokees" by Vicki Rozema (1995) John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, page 350-351.

¹⁰² "Footsteps of the Cherokees" by Vicki Rozema (1995) John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, page 94.

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Green lines denote county borders.

From the book, "Footsteps of the Cherokees" © 1995 by Vicki Rozema; Ross' Landing is now called Chattanooga, was a stockade. Calhoun in McMinn County was another stockade as was the main encampment at Charleston in Bradley County.

The stockades were death traps. Diseases, excessive heat, lack of sanitation, clothing and proper food were contributory factors in many deaths within the stockades.

The old, infirmed and little children were unprepared for the brutality of the military. People were herded along like cattle pricked with bayonets if they didn't move fast enough.

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In the stockade the natives stated that “the sky was their blanket and the earth was their pillow”.

William Anderson in his book; “Cherokee Removal” reports the following story by one of the soldiers in the removal process.

“John G. Burnett, a soldier who participated in the removal, describes other events.”¹⁰³

Men working in the fields were arrested and driven to the stockades.

Women were dragged from their homes by soldiers whose language they could not understand.

Children were often separated from their parents and driven into the stockades with the sky for a blanket and the earth for a pillow.

And often the old and infirm were prodded with bayonets to hasten them to the stockades.

In one home death had come during the night, a little sad faced child had died and was lying on a bear skin couch and some women were preparing the little body for burial. All were arrested and driven out leaving the child in the cabin. I don't know who buried the body.

In another home was a frail Mother, apparently a widow and three small children, one just a baby. When told that she must go, the Mother gathered the children at her feet, prayed a humble prayer in her native tongue, patted the old family dog on the head, told the faithful creature good-bye, with a baby strapped on her back and leading a child with each hand started on her exile. But the task was too great for that frail Mother. A stroke of heart failure relieved her sufferings. She sunk and died with her baby on her back, and her other two children clinging to her hands. (Burnett 1978, 183)”

17,000 Cherokees were forced by bayonet to the stockades at those locations. Some were taken out of their homes as they sat for supper without blankets, utensils, food supplies or other means necessary for sustaining a long journey.

Families were split up sometimes the children hiding in the woods, never to see their parents again. After the soldiers would forcibly remove the Cherokees, white settlers would move into their homes and take possession of their farms and businesses.

These marauding mobs would follow the soldiers from house to house looting and removing valuable possessions.

Some statistics report that as many as 2000 Cherokees died in the stockades before they actually began their journey.

¹⁰³ “Cherokee Removal” by William I. Anderson (1991) University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, page 79-80.

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Burnett also wrote that Chief Junaluska, who had saved Jackson's life in the Creek war, had "tears gushing down his cheeks at the scene. "... If I had known at the battle of the Horse Shoe what I know now, " he said, "American History would have been differently written."¹⁰⁴

As General Scott's military forced the Cherokees into boats and organized over-land trails, the Cherokees would not cooperate and this presented hardships and deaths at the cruel hands of the military.

The military did not have enough boats for the water routes and crammed the Cherokees into the overcrowded barges.

Many Cherokees jumped the ships and the trails and hid in the mountains and woods. Soldiers would shoot those they could catch.

Many died en route and Chief John Ross petitioned General Scott to allow the Cherokees to remove themselves. Upon gaining permission from Washington, John Ross was allowed to organize the process.

This eased the strained relationships with the soldiers and Chief Ross organized the following procedures.

There were 13 Groups of approximately 1000 Cherokees in each group called detachments. A detachment was headed by an overseer.

In October 1837, one of these overseers, B.B. Cannon took a detachment over land up through Missouri called the Northern Route.

The full trip to Oklahoma took 3 to 4 months. However the harsh winter conditions forced some groups to take longer.

Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton could have been in this group.

Henry & Nancy Pratt were not in the Cannon group. At this point we must take a hard look at the evidence to determine when they left Tennessee.

Henry was a trustee on a deed in Monroe County on 2 Jul 1838.

Absalom & Cynthia Blanton purchased 40 acres in Section 5 outside the city of Sullivan on 3 September 1838.

If the Blantons and Pratts traveled together as some claim, then we need to confirm that story with evidence or deductive reasoning.

The idea of them traveling together is based on an old story which follows.

¹⁰⁴ "The Trail of Tears Across Missouri" by Joan Gilbert (1996) University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO, page 34.

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My great aunt Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**)¹⁰⁵ Pratt and Ethel Delora (**MISSEY**) Isgriggs told me the following story concerning the migration to Missouri.

"The story goes, as the Blantons and Pratts were crossing Tennessee on their way to Missouri, they came to an Indian village. One of the Blanton's spotted a squaw nursing her papoose on a tree log. He boasted to another that he could shoot her off the log at a great distance. As the wagon train left the village he shot the woman and killed her.

Several miles from the village the wagon train was halted by a large group of Indians. They stated that they would kill every man, woman and child if they didn't turn over the man who had shot the Indian woman.

They deliberated and turned the Blanton over to the Indians.

Several miles later they saw him running for the wagon train with the Indians in pursuit. He appeared to be covered in red paint. As he got closer to the wagon train, it was apparent that the Indians had skinned him alive. The red paint was actually his own blood.

He died before he reached the wagon train."¹⁰⁶

As to who this Blanton was is not known. He could have been related to any of the Blantons.¹⁰⁷

Concerning this story, I cannot place any of the Blantons with the Pratts on the "Trail of Tears".

Absalom & Abner were already in Franklin Co., MO before Henry left Tennessee.

Joshua & Bethanie (**HARMON**) Blanton, remember Bethanie was of native heritage, was forced to leave Tennessee and they didn't leave until 1842.

As the evidence mounts, Henry Pratt and Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton were Cherokee Indians and shooting a woman of your own tribe was taboo. In fact, shooting any woman was taboo.

However, it is most likely that this Indian woman was of a different tribe. There was no love lost between the Cherokees and their old enemy the Creeks.

Warning: Because stories like this become embellished through the years, maybe the Pratts weren't even involved or maybe the Blantons weren't even involved.

Therefore, my reader, do not take the above story to heart; it appears to be in conflict with the facts.

¹⁰⁵ She married Virgil Ransom Pratt, son of Henry Winslow Pratt, son of Alexander R. Pratt son of Henry Pratt & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.

¹⁰⁶ "Pratt Progenitor Papers, Volume 6, John Blanton & Descendants", by Floyd Thomas Pratt (1992), Pratt Publications, page 229.

¹⁰⁷ The Blantons were a prolific family. John Blanton Jr., Absalom's father, had 13 children including 11 sons.

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DEPARTURE ANALYSIS

1. The trip across Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and up through Missouri would have taken a considerably longer time than normal under winter conditions. Most likely 4-6 months or more.
2. Henry Pratt was named on a deed on July 2, 1838 in Monroe County; reaching Washington County, Missouri by September would have been highly improbable. If they had good weather it may have been possible. But there were no groups leaving in July.
3. Therefore, he could not have accompanied Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton family to Missouri because Absalom bought 40 acres in Franklin County on 3 Sep 1838.
4. The first group left October 1837 and would have been in Missouri by February/March 1838. Absalom could have been in this group with B.B. Cannon.
5. The next group that left overland through Missouri was Richard Taylor's group who left 20 Sep 1838. Henry could have been in this group but not Absalom; he bought land in Franklin County 3 Sep 1838.
6. Since Absalom was a white man, who married an Indian, he would have had the luxury of traveling at his own pace and without hindrances.
7. Newspaper obituary: *Elbert S. Blanton¹⁰⁸ was born April 4, 1831 in Tennessee and died at the home of his son, Elbert, Jr., near Sullivan, May 15, 1913, aged 82 years, 1 month, 11 days. **He came to Missouri with his parents when less than a year old.** His life was spent in the counties of Washington, Crawford and Franklin. In 1852 he married Mary E. Pratt¹⁰⁹, who died in 1902. Twelve children were born to them, seven of whom survive, namely Mrs. Nancy Brandt, Mrs. Susan Claspill, Mrs. Ellen Fraseur, Mrs. Sarah Dace, Mrs. Lucy Moss, Martin V., and Elbert S., Jr. Two of his sisters are still living, Mrs. John Allen, Sr. and Mrs. John Pratt, Sr. The funeral service was conducted Friday, May 16, by the Rev. C.R. Disney of the M. E. Church and burial was made in Buffalo Cemetery.*

(Newspaper unknown date unknown.)--Tom Pratt

Even though this states his parents came to Missouri in 1832, I doubt this.

Nevertheless, the last place I pick-up on Absalom is in 1830 Greene County, TN when he was purchasing items from the estate of Daniel Carter.¹¹⁰

It is possible he moved to Franklin County, Missouri long before the "Trail of Tears" to be close to his older brother, Abner Blanton.

¹⁰⁸ Son of Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton.

¹⁰⁹ Daughter of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt.

¹¹⁰ SALE: Greene Co., TN 25 Oct 1830 Absalom Blanton was purchasing items from the Estate sale of Daniel Carter who was deceased.

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Abner Blanton married Nancy (**STULTZ**) in Roane Co., TN on 8 Aug 1819. They moved to Franklin County, MO between 1837/1838. She may have been of Indian ancestry and they also were forced to move west.

They moved to Boone Twsp., in Franklin County and Absalom's family lived near them outside Sullivan, Meramec Twsp., Franklin Co., MO.

8. Another reason I *don't* think Henry Pratt and Absalom Blanton came together was the 1840 census of Franklin & Washington Counties of Missouri. Absalom & family are living outside Sullivan in Franklin Co., and Henry & family are in Richwoods Twsp., Washington Co., MO. If they traveled together, surely they would have settled in close proximity of each other. But they weren't near each other at all.
9. Absalom chose to live with white men in close contact near the city of Sullivan and Henry & family chose to live in the wilderness of Richwoods Township.

Based on the above observations and evidence, the Henry Pratt family and the Absalom Blanton family did not come to Missouri together at the same time.

I believe Henry Pratt was forced to leave Monroe County, his home for 8+ years and Tennessee his home for 38 years and traveled with the Richard Taylor group, which departed from Chattanooga on Sep 20, 1838 with 1029 Cherokees.

According to the maps, Richard Taylor led a group from Chattanooga northward to the trail west of Agency or Calhoun and followed B.B. Cannon's trail from the previous year.

Henry & Nancy could have lost their two young boys at the stockades or along the trail.

The stockades in Calhoun were located right across the river in McMinn County, TN. I'm sure some of the Carters visited them in the stockade. Most of Nancy's relatives including her parents liked the area of McMinn County and decided to settle in that area after the Cherokees left.

The Pratts probably had loaded all they could onto their ox cart and did not have many provisions for the harsh winter trip. Being forced to leave their belongings, it is unlikely they had enough money to sustain them on their journey.

I'm sure the military told Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt that because she was a white woman, she could stay in Monroe County with her parents and family but her husband Henry and the children would have to leave for the west because they were Indians.

Nancy being a loyal, dutiful wife and devoted mother refused to abandon her family and undertook the trip with Henry and the children.

I imagine Absalom and Cynthia also were offered the same proposition only reversed because Cynthia had Cherokee ancestry.

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However, Absalom being a white man had financial resources because of his successful business dealings in Greene County, TN.

In any case, the Pratts embarked in the roughest time of the year, through unknown territory, void of family companionship of relatives or in-laws, for a place of unknown origin.

After 38 years of residency, Henry is forced to leave his home as an exile.

Little did any of the Cherokee peoples know of the hardships that faced them on this perilous journey.

Many lives would be lost and the loss of their heritage would scar future generations.

“THE TRAIL OF TEARS OR THE TRAIL WHERE WE CRIED”



111

This map does not show the northern route through Missouri.¹¹² The following maps do show the Missouri northern route. Notice how small the Cherokee nation had shrunk by 1838 due to the American government's land swindles.

¹¹¹ "Trail of Tears", by John Ehle, (1988) Anchor Books, New York.

¹¹² "Cherokee Removal" by William I. Anderson (1991) University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, page 82.

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They went through McMinnville, Murfreesboro, and their first stop was at Nashville.

At designated points there was supposed to be food and supplies left by government agents to help sustain them on their trip west. But due to crooked government agents, sometimes there wasn't enough supplies and food and the men had to hunt for turkey, deer and other game to feed their families.

Even the locals interfered with the Cherokee peoples by raising prices on food and charging double or triple for provisions and repairs. Not all locals along the trip were greedy, some took pity on the people and shared their food and lodging especially during the harshness of winter.

Some citizens would not allow the military to camp the procession near their towns and refused assistance to the sick and needy. Burials were daily.

In his report, "Demography of the Trail of Tears",¹¹³ Russell Thornton states the following:

Deaths occurred almost every day, from disease, cold, hardship, and accidents.

Rebecca Neugin made the journey as a three-year old.

"When the soldier came to our house my father wanted to fight, but my mother told him that the soldiers would kill him if he did and we surrendered without a fight. They drove us out of our house to join other prisoners in a stockade. After they took us away, my mother begged them to let her go back and get some bedding. So they let her go back and she brought what bedding and a few cooking utensils she could carry and had to leave behind all of our other household possessions.

My father had a wagon pulled by two spans of oxen to haul us in. Eight of my brothers and sisters and two or three widow women and children rode with us. My brother Dick, who was a good deal older than I was, walked along with a long whip which he popped over the backs of the oxen and drove them all the way. My mother and father walked all the way also.

The people got so tired of eating salt pork on the journey that my father would walk through the woods as we traveled, hunting for turkeys and deer, which he brought into camp to feed us.

Camp was usually made at some place where water was to be had and when we stopped and prepared to cook our food, other emigrants who had been driven from their homes without opportunity to secure cooking utensils came to our camp to use our pots and kettles.

There was much sickness among the emigrants and a great many little children died of whooping cough. (Neugin 1978)"

¹¹³ "Cherokee Removal" by William I. Anderson (1991) University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, page 80-81.

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Notice the shadows of the soldiers on the ground.

This was typical of Cherokee families home and dress. They planted fruit trees and grew corn, beans, pumpkins and squash and they had developed their properties into one of the most productive agricultural enterprises in the country.

¹¹⁴ "But This Is My Home" 1998 by Cherokee Artist Dorothy Sullivan, Collection of Jack D. Baker, Oklahoma City

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Because of the native's successes, dishonest, envious and jealous whites, including pioneers, farmers as well as politicians plotted to take their lands for themselves.

In his book, "Cherokee Removal"¹¹⁵, William Anderson reports:

"The Cherokee census of 1835, lists 1,737 farms, which accounted for a total of 19,351 acres. There were 1,980 farmers in the area who were eighteen years of age and over. This figure exceeds the total number of families and gives an average of 1.5 farmers per family, an indication of the importance of farming among the Cherokees. An average of 11.1 acres of land was cultivated for each farm in Cherokee Georgia. Corn was the most important crop raised by the Cherokee. Production figures indicate that a total of 269,000 bushels were raised during the year of the census. Residents of Cherokee Georgia overall appear to have sold 25 percent of all corn raised, but some residents sold even larger percentages."

Consequently, the whites wanted this prosperity for themselves.

NORTHERN ROUTE OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS



*The map of the Trail of Tears shows the route taken by many of the detachments moving from Tennessee to their new home in the West.
(adapted by Donald M. Lance from Comprehensive Management and Use Plan)*

This map shows the route that B.B. Cannon took into northern Missouri¹¹⁶.

After their first night in Nashville, TN they went to Hopkinsville, KY, northwest to the Ohio River via Princeton, KY crossed the Ohio River via Berry Ferry. Westward to Golconda, IL through Vienna, West Vienna, Anna, Jonesboro, Ware to Williard's Landing on the Mississippi River.

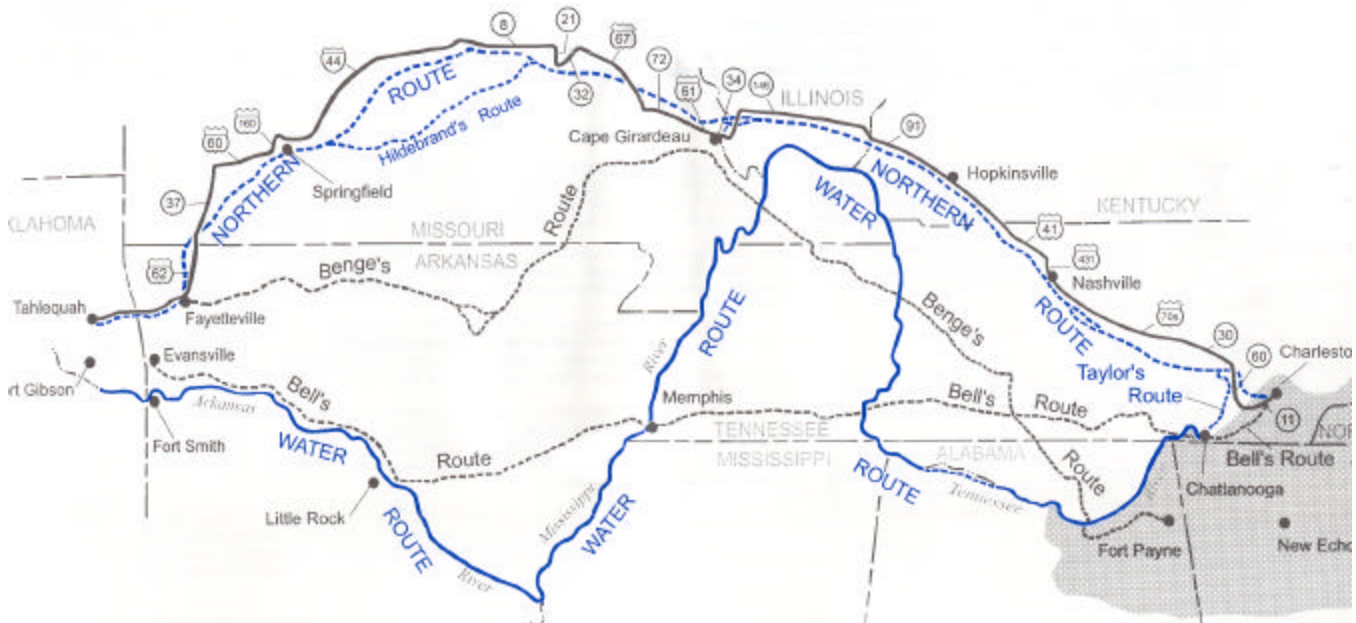
¹¹⁵ "Cherokee Removal" by William I. Anderson (1991) University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, page 16-17.

¹¹⁶ "The Trail of Tears Across Missouri", by Joan Gilbert, (1996) University Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri, page 79

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The following map shows the Northern Route by way of the now named Highways in Missouri.



After a hard freeze on the River, travel was stopped until better conditions.

Crossing the Mississippi River by Green's Ferry brought the group to Moccasin Springs, the present site of the Trail of Tears State Park outside Jackson, MO. Several groups separated after crossing Moccasin Springs and traveled northwest to Yount, Libertyville, and Farmington then westward via Doe Run to Caledonia.

Cannon's group (1837/1838) went northwest to Belgrade, west via Brazil to Crawford County.

About 20 miles west Peter Hildebrand's group (1838/1839) turned southwest traveling through Crawford County north of Salem, through Licking, going north of Houston joining main route southwest to Marshfield.

Cannon continued north through Crawford County through Huzzah, Steelville, Massey Iron Works, St. James and Rolla to Marshfield.

Richard Taylor's group (1838/1839) proceeded through Caledonia on March 1, 1839 on to Potosi then westward following what is now highway 8 through Huzzah and Steelville and camped on the Little Piney River on March 8th¹¹⁷. Then through the Meramac Iron Works, St. James then south to Marshfield and on to Fayetteville, Arkansas and on to Oklahoma.¹¹⁸

According to the journals, they decided to go north because of the availability of food, supplies, repairs and provisions available in the numerous towns, which were in northern Missouri.

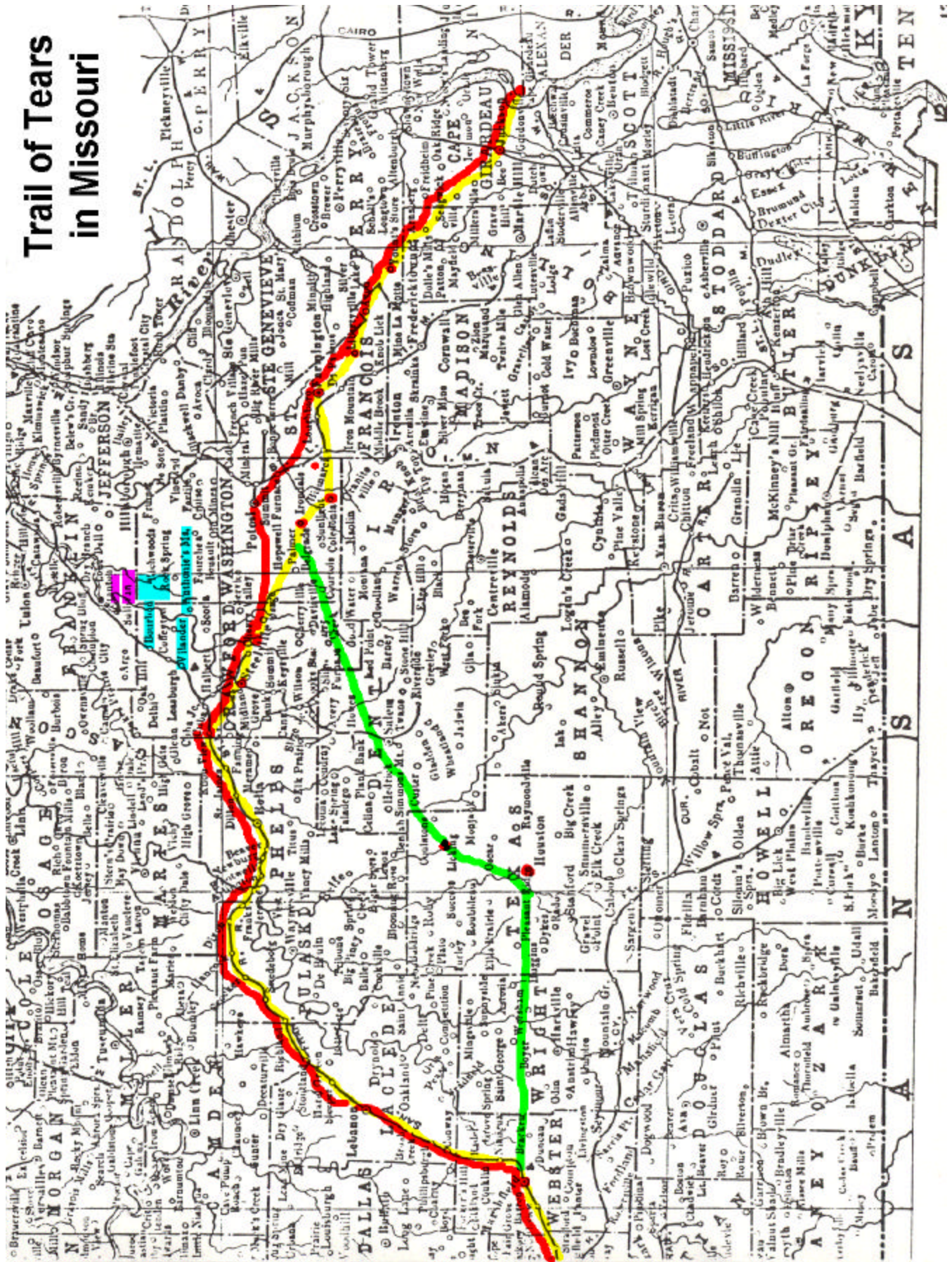
¹¹⁷ "The Journal of Rev. Daniel S. Butrick, May 19, 1838 to April 1, 1839", by The Trail of Tears Association, Oklahoma Chapter, Park Hill, OK (1998) pages 59,60.

¹¹⁸ "Trail Routes, Cherokee Trail of Tears 1838-1839" Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Trail of Tears State Park, 429 Moccasin Springs, Jackson, MO 63755

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Trail of Tears in Missouri



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A detailed map of Missouri showing **Cannon's route**, **Taylor's route** and **Hildebrand's route**.

If you notice the northern route went through Caledonia, Belgrade close to Potosi then Brazil in Washington County and cut across into Crawford County then Huzzah which was a town south of Berryman across to Steeleville then up the Meramec Iron Works road which was called Massy Iron Works to St. James down to Marshfield to Fayetteville, AR and on to Park Hill, OK.

Hildebrand's route split south of Potosi and cut across through Dent County north of Salem and southward to Licking then North of Houston across to Marshfield.

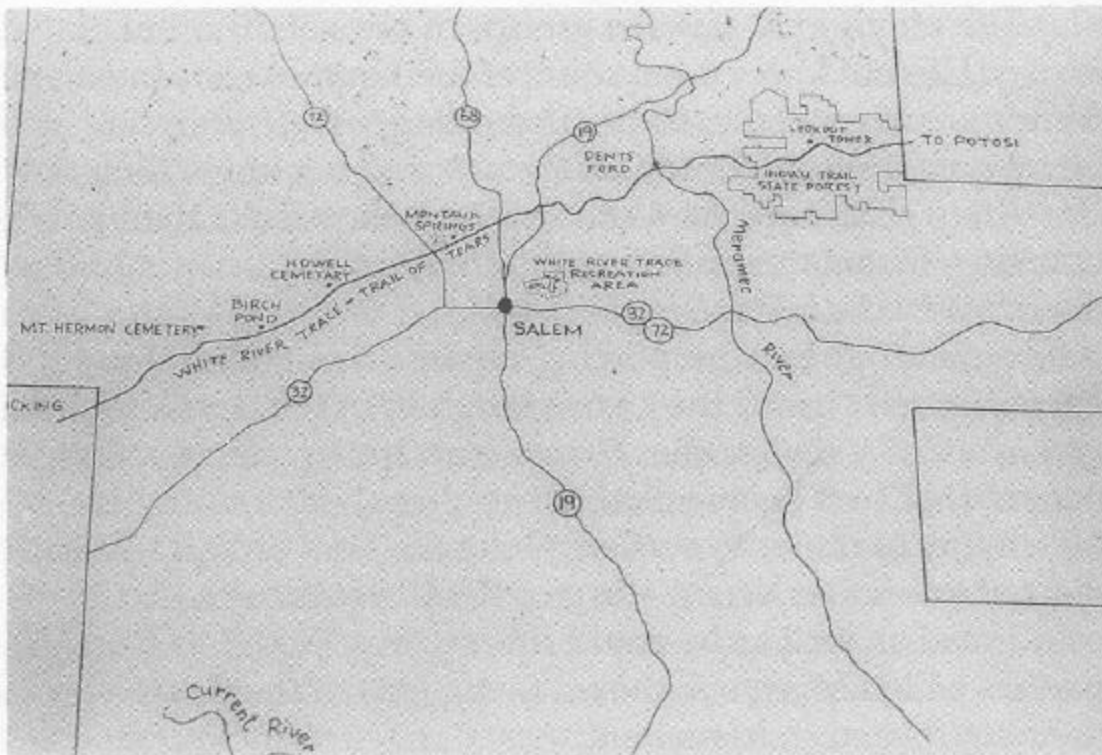
According to Taylor's journals, they followed the Cannon route until they got to Washington County where they stopped for a few days in Potosi because of the sick and infirm.

The **light blue** box represents Henry Pratt's eventual settlement at Hamilton Hollow in Johnson Township in Washington County.

The **purple box** represents Absalom Blanton's homestead in Franklin County.

The **light blue** highlights Vilander where Henry Winslow Pratt lived.

The other highlights Antonies Mill where Alexander R. Pratt lived.



This map of the Trail of Tears in Dent County is on a marker on Missouri Route 19 north of Salem. (photograph by A. E. Schroeder)

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The conditions on the trail were harsh and the promised supplies were scarce. Many Cherokees jumped the route and settled all along the way.

Thousands of Cherokees died due to diseases and harsh weather conditions. It has been estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 Cherokees died from this ordeal.¹¹⁹

Many of the soldiers would shoot anyone trying to leave the detachment.

Women lost children and some settlers along the route would not allow the Cherokees to camp on their property. Burials were a daily occurrence with the numbers in double digits.

Some settlers along the route charged 10 times the going rate for ferry service, food and other items in an attempt to detain the Cherokees and deplete their resources. The longer they detained them the more money the Cherokees spent for provisions.

Not all the white settlers were greedy and unsympathetic towards the Cherokees. Some adopted Cherokee orphans they found and raised them as their own.

When Taylor's group arrived at the Mississippi River, winter had set in early in 1838 and the River was frozen. Large sheets of ice prevented them from crossing and two encampments were established.

One encampment on the Illinois side and one on the Missouri side. The exact location on the Missouri side is now the Trail of Tears State Park and is a beautiful site near Cape Girardeau, MO.



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As they waited for more favorable weather many died at those locations.

¹¹⁹ For a detailed report on those estimates read, "The Demography of the Trail of Tears period: A New Estimate of Cherokee Population Losses" by Russell Thornton (1991) University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA within the book, "Cherokee Removal Before and After", edited by William L. Anderson (1991) Page 75, University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA

¹²⁰ Trail of Tears in Cherokee means, "the trail where we cried."

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After crossing the Mississippi, Taylor's group did not leave Cape Girardeau until the middle of February.

In the book, "The Trail of Tears Across Missouri"¹²¹, Joan Gilbert states the following:

By February 22 the Taylor detachment passed through the "handsome little village of Caledonia." Rev. Buttrick was pleased by what he saw: "The village is neat and the country around delightful. The people also appear to be intelligent and well bred. Thus far we are more and more pleased with Missouri, and the very name conveys delight to our minds. We camped in a clean and pleasant place by the side of a small creek."

Dr. W. I. I. Morrow was also traveling with the Taylor detachment. He spent a few days alone in Potosi, caring for a Mr. Thompson. He described Potosi's citizens as "respectable and apparently pious." But he thought the town was badly laid out. "The Court house out of town, the jail burned down, two brick churches, 4 taverns, 5 or 6 good stores, some groceries and some neat dwellings made of wood & painted."

He met several interesting people and visited the smelting furnace a mile from town with a young man from Massachusetts who was trying to get an English school started. Mr. Thompson was still very ill on February 22, but Dr. Morrow paid his lodging bill and left for Caledonia to rejoin the detachment.

Rain had set in, and on February 25 Buttrick reported the death of a young Cherokee of mixed blood; he had been ill since the detachment crossed the Tennessee River some four months earlier. Two days later, during a stop near Meramec Spring it began to snow, and four more died, two from the same family. Dr. Morrow wrote of the Massey (now Meramec) Iron Works, where he examined the forge and furnace. He was impressed: "I think it is the most convenient and splendid place of the kind I ever saw."



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¹²¹ "The Trail of Tears Across Missouri" by Joan Gilbert (1996) University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO, Page 64,65.

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THE EXTRICATION

When Henry Pratt and family arrived in Missouri in February 1839, this is what the State looked like.



Do you notice the large territory that Crawford County entails cutting into Washington County?

Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansell's obit states they came to Crawford County, if so, then when Henry Pratt arrived in Crawford County, he could have really been in Washington County.

The following map is a more detailed map of the Washington, Crawford County Trail of Tears.

¹²² "Trail of Tears" by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books, New York. Painting by Robert Lindeaux/Woolaroc Museum.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

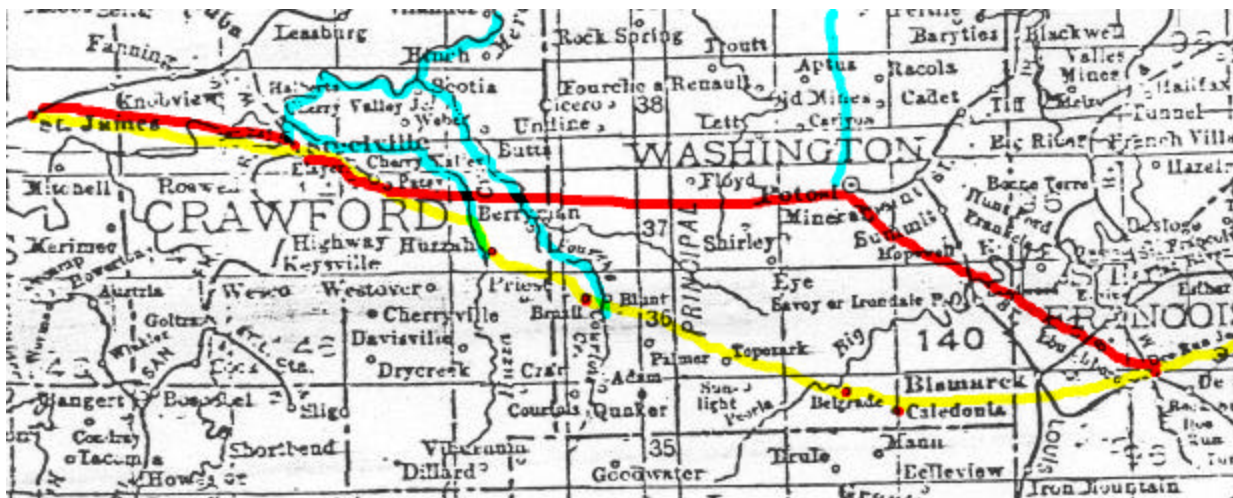
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The **yellow** trail is B.B. Cannon's route that departed in early October 1837 and arrived at Cane Hill, Arkansas on December 28, 1837. The natives refused to go any farther so Cannon turned the detachment over to an officer from Fort Gibson.

The **red** trail is Richard Taylor's route that departed 20 Sep 1838 and arrived at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory on 24 March 1839. They passed through Washington & Crawford Counties February 22 to March 11th of 1839.

The **Blue** lines are possible escape routes that the Pratts may have taken to reach northeastern Crawford County.

The distance from the trail at Potosi to Richwoods was about 12-15 miles, which was a day's march. The distance from Huzzah to northeastern Crawford County was 15-17 miles.



As the trail of tears came into Missouri, I am sure Henry & Nancy Pratt had been plotting their escape for a long time. It appears they could have followed the creek beds to safety.

1. They could have left the group at Brazil and traveled Courtois Creek and followed it all the way to the Meramec River.
2. They could have jumped at Huzzah and followed Huzzah Creek up to the Meramec River.
3. Or, they caught the Meramec at Steelville and followed it up to Hamilton Hollow.
4. Another possibility is that when the group got to Potosi, they continued north and settled in the woods at Richwoods Township. This is where they are in the 1840 census.

I feel they would have probably left in the night, under cover of darkness and followed the creek and riverbeds to hide their trail.

Going along the Meramec River would have given them plenty of fish and wild game and the terrain would have afforded them protection from the military.

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In any case you can see they were only a few miles off the trail and settled deep into the hills of first Crawford County, then Richwoods Township, Washington Co., MO.

Now Absalom being a white man settled further north near Sullivan and bought land in Franklin County 3 Sep 1838¹²³ in close proximity to his brother, Abner Blanton at the same time the Henry Pratt family was leaving McMinn County, TN on the Trail of Tears.

According to Rev. Daniel Butrick's journal, his group (Taylor's) crossed Washington and Crawford County from February 22 to March 11th 1839.

He stated they passed through Caledonia on March 1 and camped on the Little Piney River on March 8th. Little Piney River is on the other side of Steelville. **Therefore, Henry Pratt and family escaped sometime between March 1st and March 8th.**

When the Henry Pratt family arrived in Crawford County; they didn't stay long and immediately moved to Richwoods Twsp., Washington Co., MO in time to be counted for the 1840 census.

This is verified by their daughter Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansell's obituary as follows.

"Missouri Obituaries 1880-1881-1882, Abstracts of Obituaries", 18 Jan 1882¹²⁴:

Published Weekly in the "St. Louis Christian Advocate", A Publication of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Volume V:

"HANSELL, "Mother" died of pneumonia, Dec 22, 1881 at home of her son JOHN HANSELL, near Rock Church, Sullivan Circuit, Crawford Co., Mo. She was born in Green Co., Tenn., Aug 4, 1822; to Crawford Co., Mo. in 1839. By D.F.RENFRO (1-18-1882)"

According to her obituary, the arrival in Crawford Co., MO is in harmony with the journal date of Taylor's group passing through the Washington and Crawford Counties.

Soon afterwards, Henry & Nancy moved to Blanton Branch Creek or now known as Hamilton Creek named after the Hamilton Iron Works that mined there in that area in the 1870's.

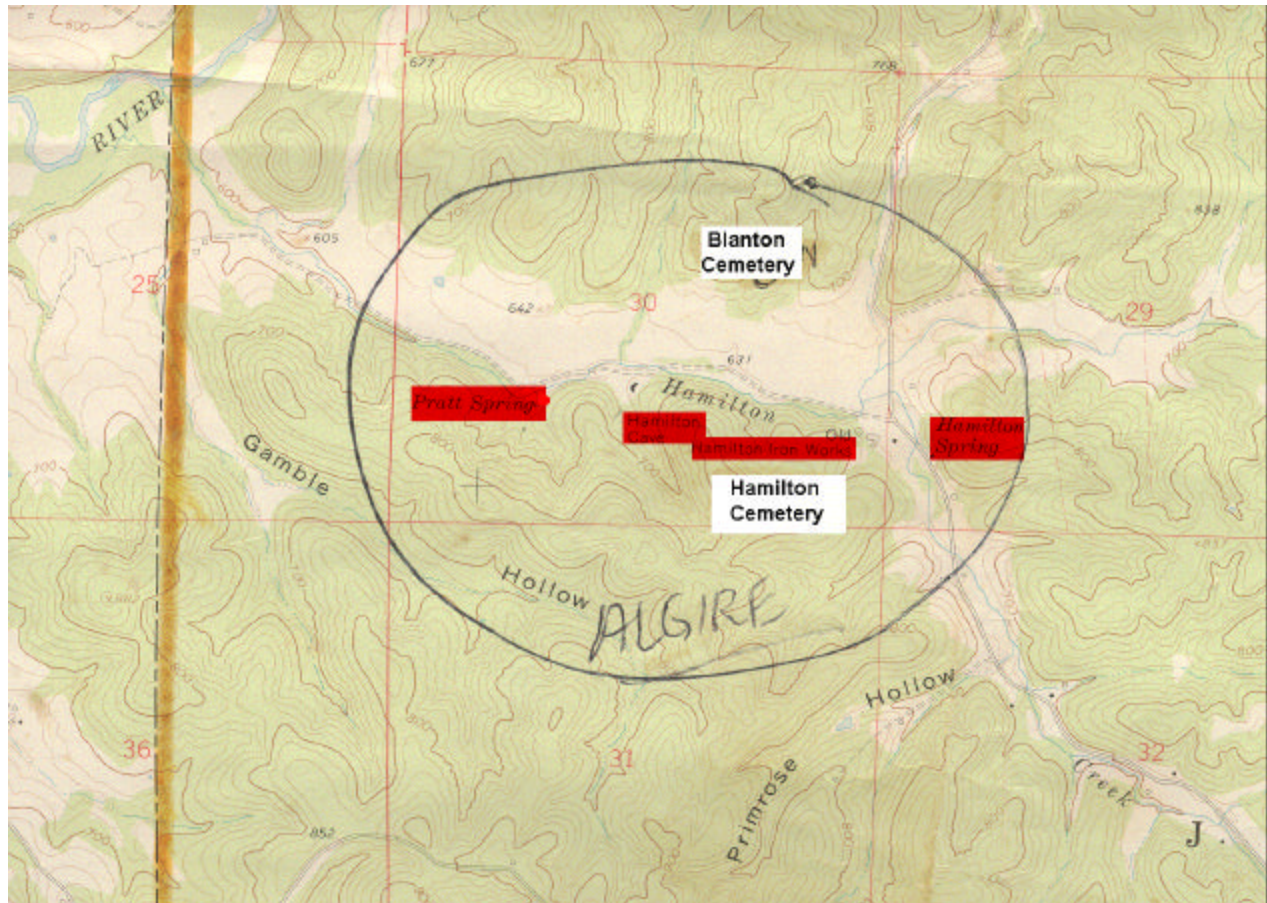
The following map shows the area where Henry Pratt and Absalom Blanton finally settled.

¹²³ Deed: St. Louis, MO., 3 Sep 1838, Receipt #10604: Absalom Blanton buys 40 acres of land section 5, township 40, range No. 2 west, of the fifth principle meridian.

¹²⁴ "Missouri Obituaries 1880-1881-1882, Abstracts of Obituaries, Volume V", by Miss Nadine Hodges and Mrs. Howard W. Woodruff (1975) Page 41.

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When I began this research in 1975, I had been told the Pratts were always associated with Greens Branch Creek, Brazil Creek, Hamilton Creek, Crows Creek, White's Creek and other little tributaries of the Meramec River.

After researching I found:

- Alexander R. Pratt settled at Anthonies Mill near White's Creek.
- His son, Henry Winslow Pratt settled on Crows Creek.
- My Grandpa, Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt settled in Bourbon.
- My Father, Floyd Theodore Pratt was raised at Bourbon.

My point...Hamilton Creek area was the old homestead for Henry Pratt. Even though he never filed a claim or a deed, this is the area he settled after a short time in Richwoods Twsp.

The Missouri Corp of Engineers named a spring on Hamilton Creek... Pratt Spring and a cave; Pratt Cave.

Note: The name "Cherokee" was given to these people by the Choctaws, which meant **"people of the cave country"**. Aniyunwiya was the name the Cherokees called themselves, meaning "the principal people."¹²⁵

¹²⁵ "The Southern Indians" by R.S. Cotterill (1954) The University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, page 5.

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By following the creek beds northwards, they were able to hide their trail and conceal their whereabouts.

After a short stint in Richwoods Township they moved to Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Township, Washington Co., MO sometime after the 1840 census.

Point 1... if the Pratts had been white and were invited to Missouri or had been told by relatives where to move to, then they would have settled in Franklin County with his sister's family or in Pulaski County with the James Jr. & Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Lynch family.

Since Cynthia and Absalom were in Franklin County at least 6 months before the Pratts, you would think that's where Henry and Nancy would have lived first. But, this assumption only works if the Pratts left Monroe County, TN deliberately and planned to relocate.

Point 2... if Absalom and Cynthia were neighbors of the Pratts in Monroe Co., TN then this hypothesis might have merit. However, we know the Absalom Blanton family was in Greene County, TN and nowhere near the Pratts in Monroe Co., TN.

Consequently, evidence suggests the Blantons were in Missouri long before the Pratts arrived.¹²⁶

The Pratts settled in virgin forest and far from the prying eyes of the government.

OTHER POSSIBLE FAMILIES ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS

There is evidence of other families who may have taken the "Trail of Tears" west or at least was forced out of Tennessee because of a spouse that had Indian ancestry.

1. James Jr. & Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Lynch were from North Carolina and according to his obituary, were married in 1810 in Buncombe Co., NC. They moved to Greene County, TN and appear in the 1830 census next to his father, James Sr. who was 70-79 at that time. According to the obituary, they moved from Greene County to Pulaski Co., MO between 1839/1841. Sometime between 1850/1860 Elizabeth died in Pulaski Co. and after her death, James moved to Liberty Twsp., Crawford Co., MO to live with his son, Calvin Vilander & Artimesaia Matilda (**WILLIAMS**) Pinnell Lynch. James died 9 Dec 1878.¹²⁷

They may have traveled on the "Trail of Tears" because Elizabeth may have had Indian ancestry. James was definitely a white man. To pinpoint this down we need to find him in the 1840 census. If he was in Pulaski County, (see map) which was on the Trail of Tears then he may have been a participant. If he was in Tennessee in 1840 then he didn't leave until after the Cherokees left Tennessee.

¹²⁶ Obituaries of Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansel and Elbert S. Blanton Sr.

¹²⁷ OBIT: From: "Missouri Obituaries Volume 4" by Mrs. Howard W. Woodruff, (1985) Page 56, 25 Dec 1878 from the St. Louis Christian Advocate: LYNCH -James died near Sullivan, in Franklin Co, Mo, in the 88th year of his age, 9 Dec 1878. He was born in Buncombe co, NC, 22 May 1791; married to Elizabeth Pratt in 1810; moved to East Tenn., Green Co, 4 miles from Greenville; enlisted under Gen Pinckney in the war of 1812; served full term; returned home, and joined the Methodist Church. He emigrated to Pulaski Co, Mo, in 1841, then almost a wilderness. His house was ever opened to the missionary. For the past 20 years he lived with his only son. -J A Lynch

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2. Joshua & Bethanie "Nannie" (**HARMON**) Blanton were in Monroe Co., TN in the 1840 census¹²⁸ and left for Scott Co., MO¹²⁹ between 1840/1842. In the 1850 census of Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO¹³⁰ he states his 11-year-old daughter, Martha was born in Missouri. This would be 1839. After Scott County, they moved to Madison Co., MO and Joshua moved to Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO between 1848/1850.

Many researchers feel Joshua Blanton's family came with the Pratts and according to my research you can see that was not possible.

3. We know that Bethanie (**HARMON**) daughter of Stephen "Nick" Sr. & Sarah (**LUSTER**) Harmon was of Indian ancestry as was her mother Sarah. Stephen Sr. moved from Monroe Co., TN¹³¹ to Independence Co., Arkansas between 1843/1850. John Benges detachment, the southern route of the "Trail of Tears" broke south of Jackson, MO and went through Batesville, Independence Co., Arkansas to Fayetteville to Tahlequah in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

I don't think they were on the "Trail of Tears" in 1838/1839 because Stephen was still in Monroe Co., TN in the 1840 census.

4. Trenton "Trent" Mckenzie & Mary (**MARTIN**) Harmon (Bethany's brother) moved from Monroe Co, TN¹³² to Independence Co, Arkansas between 1841/1850.¹³³ After Trent was acquitted for murder¹³⁴ in 1858, he moved to Liberty Twsp., Crawford Co., MO¹³⁵ next to his sister, Bethanie (**HARMON**) Blanton and son, James L. & Sarah "Sally" A. (**BLANTON**) Harmon.
5. Ezekiel & Sarah Copeland (**TAFT**) Blanton were in 1830 Monroe Co., TN census¹³⁶ and moved between 1838/1839 to Gasconade Co., MO.¹³⁷ Their daughter, Eliza in the 1850 census of Osage Co., MO¹³⁸ stated she was born in 1838 in Missouri.

¹²⁸ Census: 1840 Monroe Co., TN, 27th District, Page 175.

¹²⁹ According to Goodspeed's Biography on his son, John A. Blanton, History of Franklin, Jefferson, Crawford, Washington & Gasconade Counties of Missouri (1888), Page 722.

¹³⁰ Census: 1850 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Township, house 950.

¹³¹ Census: 1840 Monroe Co., TN, Page 151

¹³² Census: 1840 Monroe Co., TN, Page 193

¹³³ Census: 1850 Independence Co., AR., Washington Twsp., Page 375, taken on 21 Nov 1850, House 874.

¹³⁴ For a detailed report on his murder charge, see Pratt Progenitor Papers, Vol 8.

¹³⁵ Census: 1860 Crawford Co., MO., Liberty Twsp., Page 871, House 717.

¹³⁶ Census: 1830 Monroe Co., TN, Page 102

¹³⁷ Census: 1840 Gasconade Co., MO., Maries Twsp.

¹³⁸ Census: 1850 Osage Co., MO., Jackson Twsp.

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TRAIL OF TEARS ANALYSIS

John G. Burnett, a United States Army private who participated in the removal later wrote:

I witnessed the execution of the most brutal order in the history of American warfare. I saw the helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes, and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades. And in the chill of a drizzling rain on an October morning, I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into 645 wagons and headed toward the West...

The trail of the exiles was a trail of death. They had to sleep in the wagons and on the ground without fire. And I have known as many as twenty-two of them to die in one night of pneumonia, due to ill treatment, cold and exposure.

Among this number was the beautiful Christian wife of Chief John Ross. This noble-hearted woman died a martyr to childhood, giving her only blanket for the protection of a sick child. She rode, thinly clad, through a blinding sleet and snow storm, developed pneumonia and died in the still hours of a bleak winter night.

The long painful journey to the West ended March 26th, 1839 with four thousand of silent graves reaching from the foothills of the Smoky Mountains to what is known as Indian Territory in the West. And covetousness on the part of the white race was the cause of all that the Cherokees had to suffer.¹³⁹

There were no Carters on the "Trail of Tears".

The Harmons settled first in Independence Co., Arkansas, which was on the southern Trail of Tears route before they moved to Missouri in the 1860's.

None of the above settled anywhere near the Pratts in Crawford or Washington Counties.

Absalom Blanton was already in Franklin County with his brother Abner Blanton when the Pratts arrived. Absalom's brother Ezekiel lived in Gasconade County.

Hardship, disease, lack of food, clothing and medicine were contributory factors in the large numbers of deaths along the trail.

The harsh winter weather played an important part in the demise of such a tender and loving people.

Due to world opinion, the government of the United States could not wage war directly against the Cherokees.

¹³⁹ "Footsteps of the Cherokees" by Vicki Rozema (1995) John F. Blair, Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, page 54-55.

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France and other nations sensitive to the plight of the Native Americans and appalled at their inhumane treatment helped to bring these atrocities committed by the American government to the attention of the world.

Due to foreign pressure for better humane treatment of the Native Americans, the American government resorted to covert and subversive methods to systematically eliminate as much of the native races as possible through genocide.

Elected officials representing the government and with the government's blessing found that fraud and dishonesty were the tools to perpetrate this master plan to remove Native Americans from their homeland. Divide and conquer were the twins of this corrupt family.

Using the doctrine of Manifest Destiny,¹⁴⁰ the Americans condemned these people and their posterity to sub-human status by inducing poverty, alcoholism, slavery and systematically seizing natural resources on valuable Indian lands, even in Indian territory i.e., Oklahoma in the 1900's.

Native Americans weren't the only peoples to suffer at the hands of the Americans, but also the Mexicans and Hawaiians were subjected to these tactics...all for the conquest of land.

Our American history is peppered with many examples and the Trail of Tears is part of America's ethnic cleansing process...our own holocaust. And we, as American descendants from white pioneer forefathers have inherited this shame.

Compared to the African slaves, a civil war was not fought to free the native peoples, laws weren't passed to give them equal rights, quotas weren't established to give them jobs, governmental funds weren't established to educate them, holidays weren't named to honor their heroes, and television stations weren't devoted to their causes.

The Native Americans were treated without respect or dignity or afforded the rights and privileges of citizenship and they are portrayed in the media as drunkards, fools and savages and the land they were "given" was quickly taken away as soon as the white man found value; and through this process, generations of Native American descendants have been denied their ancestral heritage and are still an oppressed people living with foreigners in their occupied homeland.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003

¹⁴⁰ The 19th-century doctrine postulating the continued territorial expansion of the U.S. as its obvious destiny.

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THE 1840 WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI CENSUS

Henry Pratt moved to Richwoods Twsp., Washington Co., MO by the 1840 census.

CENSUS: 1840 Richwoods Twsp., Washington County, MO., Page 198:			
HENRY PRATT	1-1-1-0-0-0-1		1-2-1-1-0-0-1
Ages	Free white males		Free white females
4 & under	= John Absalom age 6	4 & under	= Mary Elizabeth age 1
5-9	= Alexander R. age 8	5-9	= Sarah Ann age 5
10-14	= James age 18	5-9	= Nancy Mariah age 10
40-49	= Henry Age 40	10-14	= Lorenda age 12
		15-19	= Susan A. age 19
		40-49	= Nancy (CARTER) age 40

How long he spent in Richwoods Township is unknown. But we do know he moved to Blanton Hollow now known as Hamilton Hollow in Johnson Township sometime after 1840.

He probably liked the cave country of Hamilton Hollow and felt more comfortable hiding from the government in such mountainous terrain.

What type of work did he do? Henry & sons were woodsmen and probably cut logs for railroad ties and worked in the Blanton ore mines around the area.

He must have taught his sons how to make railroad ties because Alexander Pratt made his living from that kind of labor and taught Carac Pratt, his son the craft.

Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton were able to elude the authorities and failed to show up in the census of 1840. More about Absalom's deliberate evasiveness later.

However, the land that Absalom had bought outside Sullivan on 3 Sep 1838 he sold on 22 June 1840¹⁴¹ proving his residency as being Franklin County.

Other families of interest in the Richwoods Twsp., 1840 Washington County census:

P195	Stephen Dugan	0-1-1-2-1-0-0-1	0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1 (dau Catherine married Alexander Pratt)
P196	John Missie	1-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-1 (gdau Laura married Henry Winslow Pratt)
P196	Rinard Kimberlin	1-2-0-0-0-0-1	3-1-1-1-0-0-1 (dau Mary married Alexander Pratt)
P196	John Peters Sr.	0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1	0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 (dau Frances married Rinard Kimberlin)
P196	John Peters	0-0-1-0-1	2-1-0-0-1 (bro of Frances Peters)
P197	Willoughby Goforth	1-0-0-0-0-0-1	1-2-0-0-0-1 (dau Margaret married James Blanton)
P198	Henry Pratt	1-1-1-0-0-0-1	1-2-1-1-0-0-1

¹⁴¹ Deed: Franklin County Deeds, Volume "D", Page 211: Absalom Blanton and Cynthia Blanton sold to G.P. Hardy on 22 June 1840, for \$100 for 40 acres that he had purchased 3 Sep 1838.

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No other people of importance to the Pratt family are listed in the 1840 Washington County census.

There is a John Carter age 50-59 in the Belleview Twsp, but he is not a relative of the Nancy (**CARTER**) clan.

Checking the entire Washington County census I find no fellow Tennessee relatives or neighbors of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.

Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton were still living northwest of Sullivan in section 5.

Checking the Crawford County 1840 census we see in Johnson Twsp.: John Pratt age 20-29, no relation, Liberty Twsp.: Hardin Carter 20-29, Merrimac Twsp: R.A. Carter age 60-69, John Carter age 50-59. No relations.

Nancy (**CARTER**)'s brother John was still in Monroe Co., TN in the 1840 census.

The above evidence validates my research that the Pratts came alone with no other relatives to Missouri in the 1838/1839-time period.

THE MOVE TO BLANTON HOLLOW AKA HAMILTON HOLLOW

The area of Hamilton Hollow is a mountainous region with 70° steep hills and deep valleys. In order to see the next valley you need to climb a steep hill and then you will only see more hills.

There is a thick growth of trees and brush, which in a strange place indeed.

A few miles in either direction, the terrain levels out to gently rolling hills and they are not as steep as in Hamilton Valley.

Also, that area is loaded with caves and fresh water springs. See the following report.

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A Brief History of the Hamilton Creek Valley¹⁴²

Jo Schaper

The Hamilton Valley is rich in karst features, being home to 3 large caves, 2 small ones, 2 springs averaging over 100 gallon per minute constant flow, one creek which is a textbook example of an underfit stream in a valley nearly as wide as that of the Meramec, and the Hamilton Creek fault--which is primarily responsible for this concentration of karst.

This trip is to the two smaller caves, Hamilton Hollow and Pratt Spring Cave, 455 and 300 feet respectively in length, quite a bit smaller than Big Hamilton (5475 plus), Hamilton Spring (1900), and Little Hamilton (1216). All five caves are located south of the creek.

Of the four in the valley proper, Big Hamilton and Pratt Spring Cave have north facing entrances, while Little Hamilton's entrance points nearly due east, and Hamilton Hollow's westerly.

Hamilton Spring Cave's entrance is a sink, pointing southwest, but that cave itself tends in an east-west direction.

The significance of this is that the Hamilton Creek fault is a 100-foot displacement of rock caused by earthquake activity along a weakened area in the earth's crust. It runs east west through the valley, and is a local occurrence, without the range of the New Madrid or other well known faults, though it does extend for four miles, and crosses the Meramec River.

It has been the site of no historical seismic activity. The fault was field mapped in the early 1950's in connection with the Meramec dam project, and was remapped in the early 1970's after field evidence indicated it was more extensive than previously thought. It has not been mapped east of the Hwy. 185 ridge, although the Jules Creek valley (which lines up, directly with the Hamilton Creek valley) indicates it continues east.

The fault is speculated to be a result of the intrusive ore body in pre-Cambrian rock, which is being mined at Pea Ridge pushing the younger, more brittle carbonate and sandstone rocks.

Since there is slippage and grinding of subsurface rocks along a fault, it provides the joints and crevices necessary to spring and cave formation, as well as leaving its mark of a "grinding zone" in the width of the Hamilton and Jules valleys.

This fractured bedrock and ease of water permeability, as well as greater chance for seismic energy discharge (earthquake) make fault zones a poor choice for dam construction due to the greater chance for leakage of water or structural collapse of the dam itself.

This, and the karst location in general were the basic geological argument used by Don Rimbach against the Army Corps of Engineers during the Meramec Dam fight.

¹⁴² "A Brief History of the Hamilton Creek Valley", by Jo Schaper (1989) 6455 Hoffman, St. Louis, MO 63139

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These caves are formed in the Eminence dolomite of Ordovician age. Eminence is bluish grey, fairly massive, crystalline, cherty, and not heavily fossilized except for gastropods in the chert.

Many of the large, tubular, classically phreatic cave entrances of the Meramec Valley (of which Big Hamilton and Pratt Spring Cave are examples) are formed in the Eminence. Both Hamilton Hollow and Little Hamilton are at greater elevations, and have much smaller entrances.

Secondary formations are common in the caves of the valley, and I expect to find some, as well as cave life. Big Hamilton is noted as residence to Indiana bats, Copes cave Salamander, and one depigmented fish found by Matt Marciano in early summer, 1988, which was of the minnow family as close as we could determine.

On my previous trip to Pratt Spring Cave we noted leopard frogs and solitary bats as well as lots of insects out of the cold.

*The human history of the Hamilton Valley has been long and varied. According to a March 1982 Post-Dispatch article, **it is supposed to have been a significant Indian campsite because of the availability of spring water and the topography.***

The caves probably were used for shelter, but would not make good campsites because of the water and mud. The filled sink iron deposits and galena in the area were probably used, for coloring agents and weights, though the Indians did not smelt the iron as far as I know.

European man came early to the Miramaguoua Valley, arriving around 1719, looking for silver, and finding lead and saltpeter, that frontier indispensable cave resource.

Probably only Big Hamilton contained sufficient bats to warrant digging saltpeter for more than one farmer's needs, and it is not definitely recorded that peter-dirt was dug here, as it was at Saltpeter Cave (Meramec Caverns).

Presumably the area was homesteaded early, the wide flat valley would have been very inviting in this region of steep slopes and ridges.

The iron, copper, and lead in the area lead to much prospecting and shallow pit mining on much of the land, which later became the Park (Copper Hollow, Silver Hollow, and many of the off trail areas show the remains of these pit workings.)

Because of the ruggedness of the area and mixture of Scotch-Irish Southerners with enclaves of German settlers, this area was disputed during the Civil War (as was much of Missouri) being neither clearly pro-or anti-Union.

Topography alone, with the caves and springs being much more plentiful than in the flatter lands to the north, made this area a good hiding place against the law, or civilization in general.

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But someone decided progress could not wait forever. I have only sketchy information on the Hamilton Iron works, and the investigation is ongoing. To this point, I have found that it operated from 1873-1878, took its ore from the Canada and Shields banks (as well as possibly the Christy), and that it was built by J.T. or J.W. Allison of Sullivan, who also built the Ozark Iron Works in 1873 for William James, on the Little Piney west of Rolla.

Why this charcoal fired blast furnace was erected so late is a mystery. By 1873, the price of wrought and pig iron were falling, and the price of transportation was rising.

James had closed the Meramec Iron Works because of insolvency, partly due to financial collapse in the East, and partly due to his own problems.

Ozark Iron Works was a last ditch effort to save his company from bankruptcy. Why anyone would open a new iron works under these conditions, in an out of the way place like the Hamilton Valley, I can only speculate.

Perhaps merchants in Sullivan had difficulty obtaining iron goods, and someone intended to capitalize on the local market. Supposedly, locally good supplies of specular grey hematite and copious amounts of brown iron ore were available. It's a mystery I am still looking into.

Persons interested in the operation of cold blast iron furnaces should read James D. Norris The story of The Meramec Iron Works, commissioned by The James Foundation and a readable introduction to 19th Century iron refining and manufacturing.

In any event, the iron industry in the area had to wait for modern mining methods and the discovery of the Pea Ridge deposit (shown on the MSP quad) for true profitability.

Apparently this area became a sleepy farming community from the late 1800's until the 1950's, when interest in the Meramec Park Lake project revived, then grew red-hot.

The Hamilton Valley would have been flooded under the proposed lake, and the residences in the valley were purchased and destroyed, although foundations remain at Hamilton Spring, Pratt Spring, along the road near Hamilton Cave, and at the foot of the valley where a huge home known as the Crowe Mansion once stood.

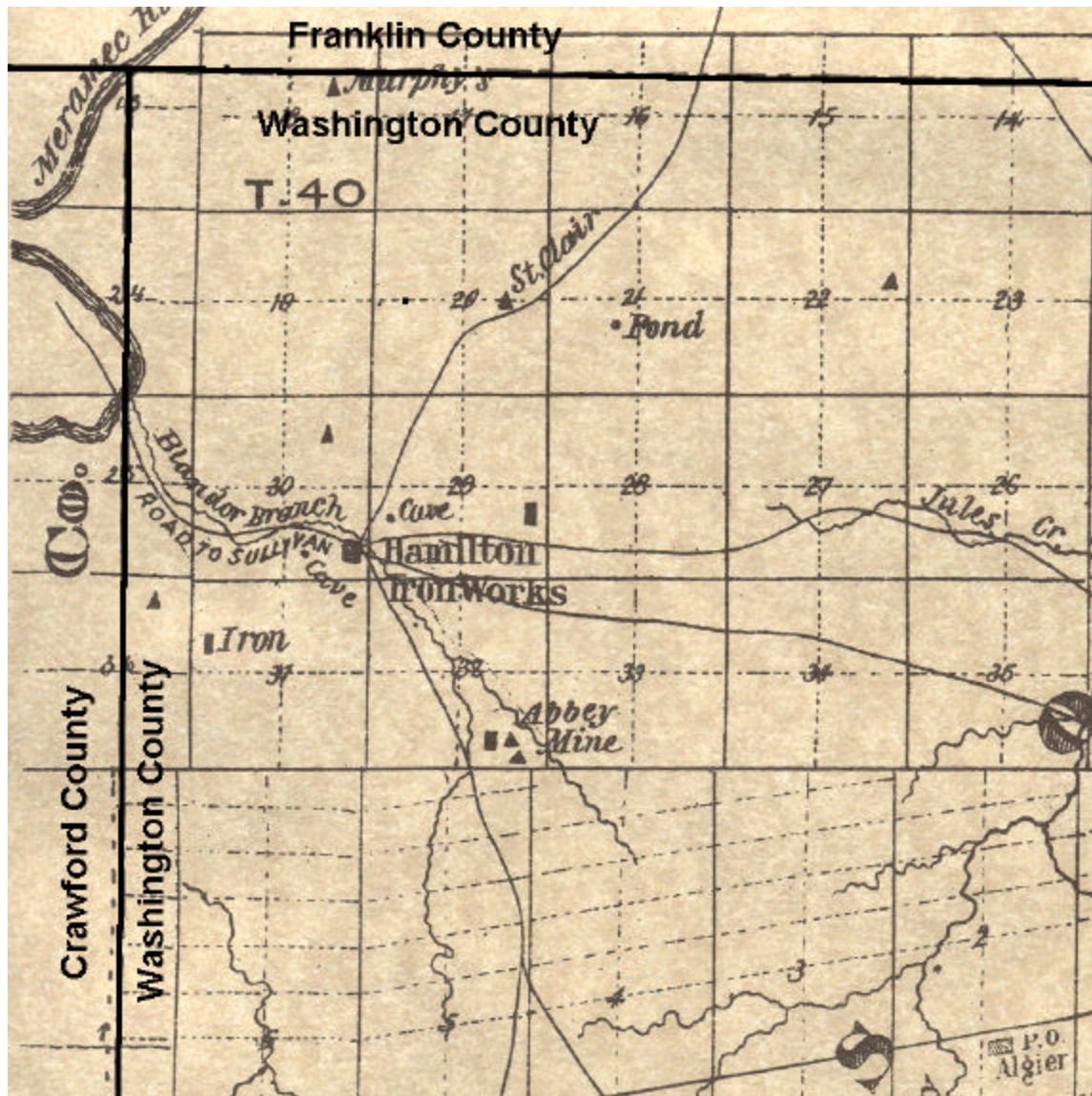
After the dam was deauthorized, the state purchased most of the valley for inclusion in the state park based on its geological significance.¹⁴³

Jo Schaper

¹⁴³ Information from: John McGuire , Ozark Prize—the Hamilton Creek Valley, March, 1982 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dwight Weaver, Missouri The Cave State: Meramec Caverns; Legendary Hideout of Jesse James, Missouri Geological Survey, Cave Maps of Hamilton Valley Caves, Hamilton Creek fault information. James D. Norris. The Story of the Meramec Iron Works, Don Rimbach.

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Notice in the lower right hand corner is the location of the Algier Post Office that delivered mail to the region.

The interesting aspect of this article reaffirms my belief that Henry Pratt and Cynthia Ann (**PRATT**) were Cherokees and it appears Henry was a squatter.

In the article she mentions a large house called the Crow Mansion. I believe this was Absalom Blanton's home.

Alexander Pratt later bought around this property and lived there several years until he sold the Pratt homestead to Ross M. Crow in 1892. More about this later.

In the above article, Jo speaks about the lake project of 1975 and how it was defeated.

The following is a report for your information concerning this near catastrophe.

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MERAMEC PARK LAKE PROJECT OF 1975

In 1975, the Corp of Engineers, prompted by the wealthy from St. Louis and surrounding communities, decided to built a dam to create a huge lake for recreational purposes on the Meramec River.

They first had to buy the land from the citizens that were in the way of the projected lake and then relocate the cemeteries in the area.

The Crawford Mirror, Steelville, Missouri, September 11, 1975, page 14:

"St. Louis, Missouri, 4 September 1975--The U. S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, is in he process of locating and cataloging cemeteries within the limits of the proposed Meramec Park Lake Project. Many cemeteries have already been located and investigated.

A great deal of assistance in locating these cemeteries has been provided by the residents of the area, and this help is greatly appreciated. However, further efforts are being made to assure that all existing cemeteries which may be affected by operations of the reservoir project have been investigated.

All existing cemeteries which have been located to date, are listed below and indicated on the accompanying project map. An asterisk next to the name of a cemetery in the list indicates that the cemetery is located outside of the project boundary and, thus, will not be affected by the project.

Detailed topographic and land surveys have been completed for each of these cemeteries to determine the elevation and exact locations of each. Only those cemeteries located within the project limits will be affected by the project and possibly require remedial measures.

Depending upon the location and elevation of the cemetery, remedial measures include raising the cemetery, allowing the cemetery to remain as is, or relocating the cemetery to either an existing cemetery or a new cemetery.

Anyone having information concerning the location of cemeteries or graves within the project boundaries, which are not listed below, is requested to forward such information to the Corps of engineers. Such information should be forwarded to either of the following addresses: U. S. Army Engineer District, 210 North I2th St.. St. Louis. Mo. 63101, Attention RE-A, phone number (314) 268-2404; or, Meramec Park Lake Real Estate Office, 234 W. Main St., Sullivan. Mo. 63080, phone number (314) 468-4110.

Persons supplying information should include their address and/or phone number when responding so they may be contacted if additional clarification is needed.

Once all the cemeteries and graves within the project limits have been located and surveyed, a cemetery relocation plan will be drawn up and coordinated with all known next-of-kin of persons interred in affected cemeteries.

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Since it is imperative that all cemeteries within the project limits be located any additional information in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

The following list enumerates the cemeteries Located to date. The reference numbers correspond to the numbers in circles on the accompanying map to aid in pinpointing the cemeteries.

NAME OF CEMETERY / REFERENCE NO.

McIntosh –1	* Hamilton –10	Crabtree –19	Coleman- 27
Blanton –2	Reeves –11	Isgriggs –20	* Crawford County –28
(Name Unknown) –3	Record –12	* Dodkin –21	* Lick Creek –29
Hibler –4	*Anthonies –13	Hiller –22	* Haack –30
Garland –5	Harrison –14	Clonts –23	* New Rock –31
Hyde –6	Hardy –15	* Gibbs –24	Crow –32
Isgriggs –7	Wright –16	* Pinnell –25	* Rapp –33
Shaffer –8	* Fitzwater –17	Rupp –26	Webb –34
Sappington –9	Fitzwater –18		

Even though the Corps stated some of these cemeteries would not be affected, there is always a chance they could have been.

If this plan had been allowed to be completed, this would have been a disaster for local family history.

In my book, "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"¹⁴⁴, I investigated the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery which had been a victim of relocation and found headstones were broken, missing and the contractor had bulldozed the headstones into a nearby creek so he could build houses over the cemetery property.

Also, when the headstones were removed and erected in the new location, they were misplaced and husbands and wives were no longer next to each other and as a researcher you could not verify a relationship.

So, I have had first hand knowledge of what relocating a cemetery can do to the preservation of ancestral history.

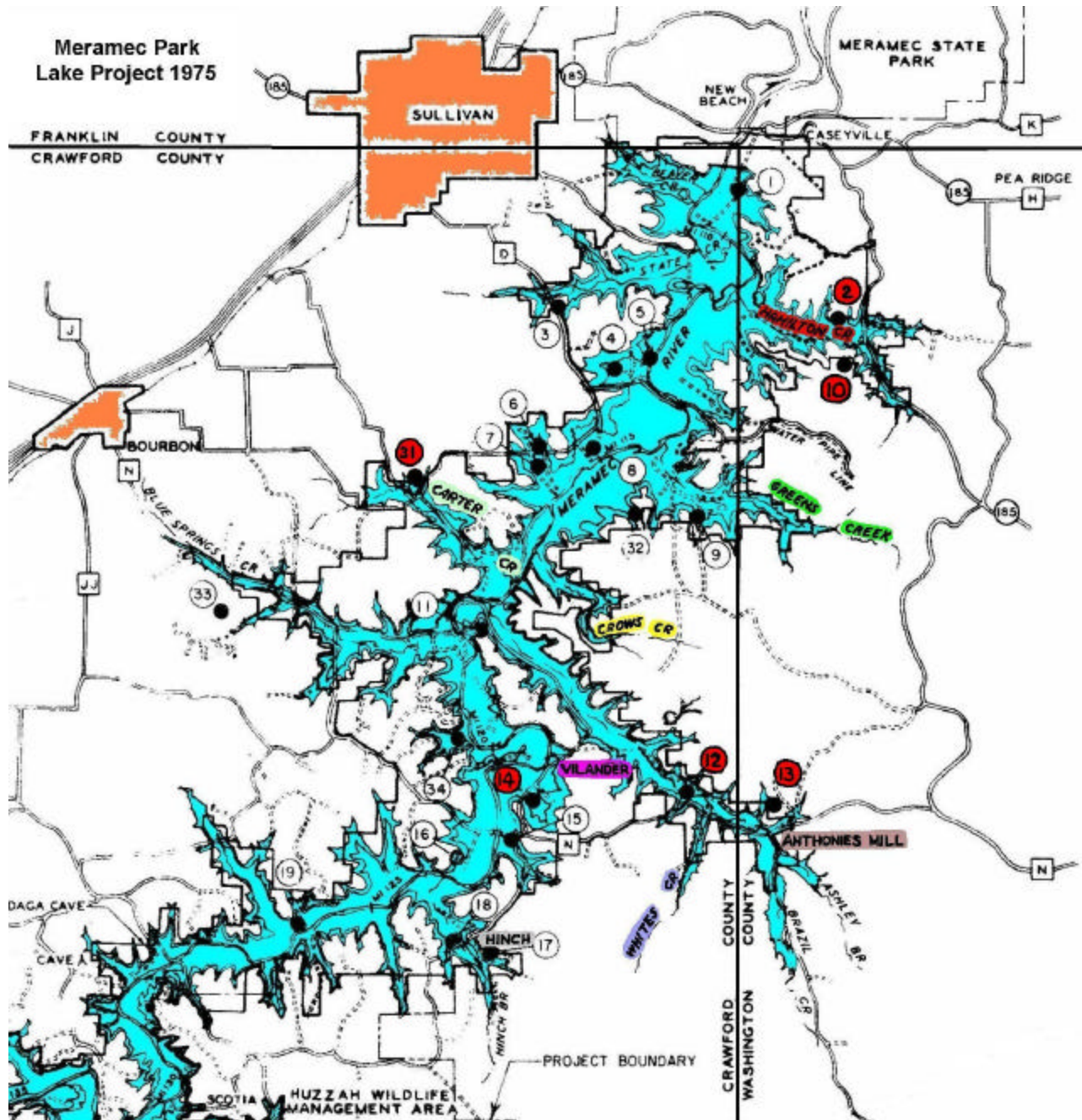
There are several cemeteries that are of great importance to the Pratt family researcher in this list; Blanton, Harrison, Anthonies/Kimberlin, Hamilton, New Rock and Record cemeteries.

I have included this information to help you locate these cemeteries, so you and your family can find them and visit your ancestor's resting places.

¹⁴⁴ "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri" by Floyd Thomas Pratt (2002), Pratt Publications, 6732 Northampton Place, Bradenton, FL 34207.

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Creeks	Locations	Cemeteries
Hamilton Creek	Hamilton Hollow	#2 Blanton Cemetery #10 Hamilton Cemetery
Carter Creek		#31 New Rock Cemetery
Whites Creek	Anthones Mill	#13 Anthones or Kimberlin Cemetery #12 Record Cemetery
	Vilander	#14 Harrison Cemetery
	Hinch	
Greens Creek		
Crows Creek		

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THE FEAR FACTOR

I believe Absalom Blanton was a white man and he married Cynthia (**PRATT**) a full blood Cherokee, making their descendants half bloods of Indian ancestry. I believe Henry Pratt was a full blood Cherokee and married Nancy (**CARTER**) a white woman.

This explains why Absalom Blanton was able to purchase land and make business transactions and is recorded in Greene Co., TN, St. Louis, Franklin Co., Washington Co., and Crawford Co., MO, while Henry Pratt was not allowed to purchase land, vote, conduct legal proceedings, operate businesses, hold citizenship and is not in any Court records and seems to be non-existent.

Indians were not allowed to own property, vote, enter into business dealings and in **1824** the Missouri Legislation passed a law **forbidding Indians** to do *any* business in the State of Missouri. The law went so far as to state it was prohibitive for the citizens of Missouri to conduct business with Indians.

It was far more advantageous to appear as a white man in all aspects than a Native Indian.

In her book, Joan Gilbert¹⁴⁵ states the following:

"It was fairly easy to blend in with the white settlements, because many of them did not look "Indian". A tribal tradition was to marry for love, with little prejudice about race or nationality. Thus many Cherokees could pass for white, or black, or a vague mix of ancestry.

Early intermarriage with Scottish soldiers had resulted in many red-haired Cherokees.

Other reasons Cherokees blended easily were that many were Christian. Most dressed as the whites did. They possessed useful skills and crafts.

Their success at blending has been so great that Baker-Northup says she is often asked, "Where have you Indians been all this time? We have been right here among you," is her answer, "raising our children and working at our jobs."

Until recently, however, few made their ancestry known, as most people of Indian blood now do.

Earlier, Indian people kept low profiles in fear that the government would somehow, sometime, descend and pack them off to reservations. Elders, usually familiar with prejudice and harassment, wanted to spare their children pain. They concealed their family history.

¹⁴⁵ "The Trail of Tears across Missouri", by Joan Gilbert (1996), University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri, pages 97/98.

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This attitude, lingering in many older Cherokees today, is sometimes an obstacle to younger ones who want to explore their heritage. Grandparents often refuse to share what they know. "Maybe they are still afraid," Baker-Northup says.

In Missouri, beginning in 1824, a series of laws made it unlawful to trade with Indians. The 1824 law specifically mentioned the "Indians settled...on the waters of the St. Francis river," where Cherokees had settled in the 1700s.

As late as 1906 it was unlawful for any Indian to hunt or "roam" within the limits of Missouri without a "written permit from the proper agent."

This law made it the duty of the governor to send a request to the agents of all the Indian tribes on the borders of the state, asking them not to grant a permit to "any Indian to come into the state for the purpose of hunting."

The laws relating to Indians were repealed in 1909, but it made sense for the Cherokees to blend into the white communities in the early 1900s."

As you can see, Absalom Blanton was afraid that the Government would take away his wife and children and force them to live in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) on a reservation.

This is why he had a low profile when it came to census records and is hard to track.

Likewise, Henry Pratt and other families with partial or full bloods feared the government. Especially since they had just been run out of their homes by bayonet and forced to leave their homeland even after assurances that they would be protected by the government of the United States.

When inquiring about the family history of many Blantons and Pratts, the old timers would not talk about their family or past. This "fear factor" I feel has roots seeded by the betrayal of the government subjugating the Cherokee peoples.

MORE NATIVE EVIDENCE

Note the following from Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed in a letter dated 6 Nov 1976¹⁴⁶:

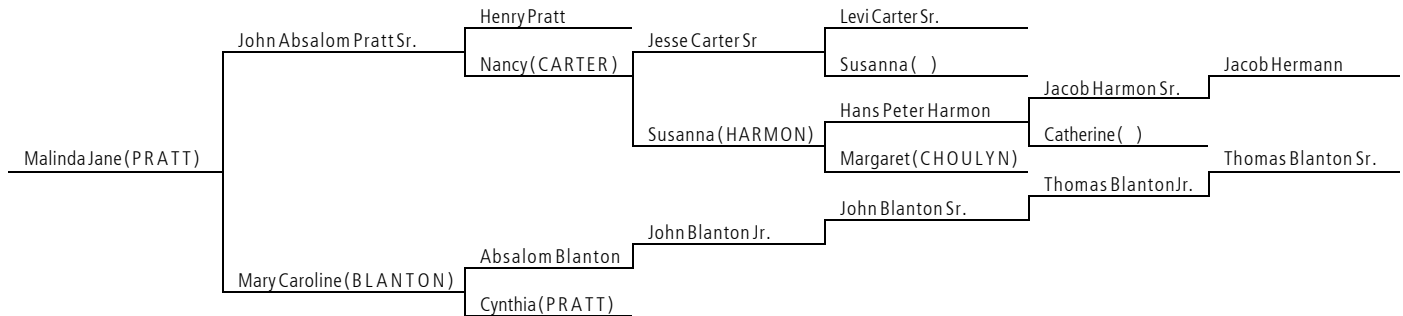
*"Now before I forget it, I must ask you a question. Have you heard from any relative or older people who knew the Pratts whether or not they were supposed to be part Indian? The **Malinda Jane** I just spoke of has a great granddaughter who told me that she had always been taught that Malinda was half Indian. I don't believe that, but I believe Henry Pratt & Cynthia Pratt were at least half Cherokee Indians from the mountains of Eastern Tenn. My **mother-in-law** used to claim that her mother was part Indian. This would have to come through the Pratts. The Blantons & Carters had no Indian blood that I can find."*

- Malinda Jane (**PRATT**) daughter of John Absalom & Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) Pratt born 3 Mar 1853 in Washington Co., MO, died 21 Feb 1931 in Sullivan.

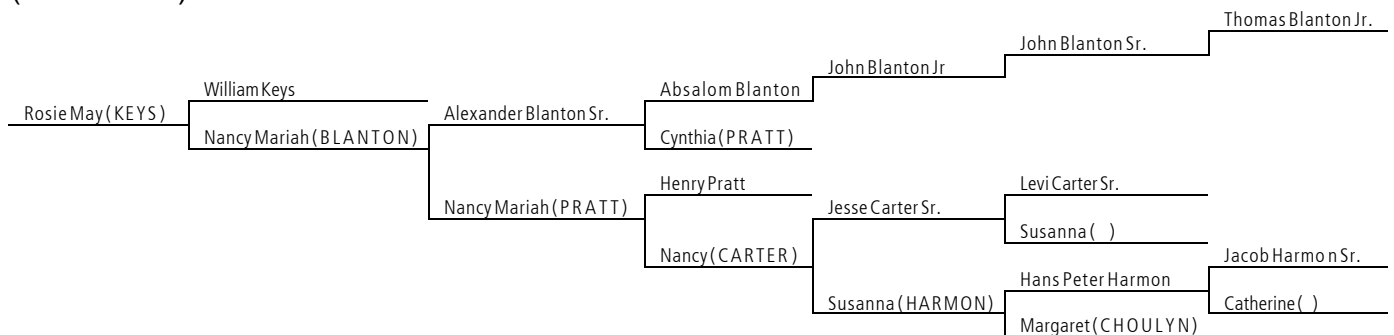
¹⁴⁶ Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed Letter, 6 Nov 1976, page 5.

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If Henry Pratt was full-blooded Cherokee then John Absalom Pratt was $\frac{1}{2}$. If Cynthia (**PRATT**) was full-blooded Cherokee then Mary Caroline “Betsy” (**BLANTON**) was $\frac{1}{2}$. This makes Malinda Jane $\frac{1}{4}$ Cherokee.



- If Henry Pratt was full-blooded Cherokee then Nancy Maria (**PRATT**) is ½ Cherokee. If Cynthia (**PRATT**) was full-blooded Cherokee then Alexander Blanton Sr. is ½ Cherokee. Nancy Mariah (**BLANTON**) would be ¼ Cherokee.



My Great Aunt Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**) Pratt¹⁴⁷ always stated the Pratts had Indian ancestry. Her daughter, Virginia Gay (**PRATT**) Slankard told me her mother thought the Pratts were Choctaw.¹⁴⁸

The Campbells, Pratts, Hansels and Blantons of Missouri have all passed down stories of Indian ancestry. One must remember, the Missouri Pratts and Blantons have the Indian ancestry not the Tennessee Pratts or Blantons that I know of. By the marriages of Absalom Blanton to Cynthia (**PRATT**) all their descendants carry Indian ancestry. Likewise by the marriage of Henry Pratt and Nancy (**CARTER**) all their descendents in Missouri carry Indian ancestry.

¹⁴⁷ Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**) married Virgil Ranson Pratt, son of Henry Winslow Pratt, son of Alexander R. Pratt, son of Henry Pratt.

¹⁴⁸ I have dismissed the Choctaw angle because the Choctaws were from Mississippi. The Choctaws were not a viable force in Tennessee.

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This fear of discovery by the American government silenced several generations of Pratts and Blantons blinding their descendants to their true proud and honorable heritage.

In another letter from Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed dated 12 Jan 1977:

*"The obituary attached is that of a grandson¹⁴⁹ of Henry Hubert & Matilda Jane (**PRATT**) Blanton. I tried 3 times to get him to open up & talk about his family. He seemed afraid or disliked recalling the past. I have been told that he had been a rather rough character as were his father before him."¹⁵⁰*

This scenario of silence has been told to me for the past 30 years. The fear of the past has led me to dig more and find out why there was such reluctance to speak of the past.

In my research, I discovered another peculiar aspect of this love/hate relationship with the American government.

Not one of Henry Pratt's, Pratt descendants has served in the military on behalf of the United States, until his 4th generation in (1917), when my grandfather and his brothers enlisted in World War 1.

None of Henry's (Pratt) descendants fought in the Civil War, the Spanish war of any other wars on behalf of the government.

The Blantons had several who fought in the Civil War. The Hansels fought in several wars.

Henry Pratt's bitterness was rightly justified against the American government for the many years of dishonesty and betrayal perpetrated against his family and friends. He passed this fear and distrust down to his children and their children, which has transcended generations.

As they grew up in the secluded hills of Hamilton Hollow, the fear factor was always in back of their minds as they associated with other families in Crawford, Franklin and Washington counties with common backgrounds and common interests for safety and protection.

In their minds, the government could come and take their family away anytime they wanted... they did it before!

This concealment of our heritage is why all of us who have researched the Blantons, Harmons, and Pratt families have heard the Indian stories and have dismissed the stories because...we don't look like Indians.

¹⁴⁹ Obituary of "James Irvin Blanton, 78, of Flat River was born Oct. 18, 1898 in St. Louis and died Dec 24 at his residence. He was the son of the late James and Ada O'Neil Blanton. His wife, Margaret preceded him in death. Surviving are; a stepson, Richard Wurst Sr., Ironton; a stepdaughter, Joann Blanton, Bakersfield, Calif.; several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Chapel services were Sunday at 2 p.m. at Caldwell Funeral Home in Flat River with the Rev. Ken Goff officiating. Interment was at Herrod Cemetery."

¹⁵⁰ Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed, letter dated 12 Jan 1977, page 2.

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Besides, we had English names. It wasn't until I began my in-depth research of the Cherokee Indians in 2001, did the similarities and coincidences begin to make sense and pieces of the puzzle began to fall in place.

In that in-depth study of this association between the Native Americans and the American Government I discovered a long history of betrayal by the government.

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: ARCHITECTS OF BETRAYAL

In order to understand the mistreatment of the Cherokee peoples, we must look back to the 1750's for some history.

The British government of the Colonies thought it might be good to "civilize" the savages that dwelled within their borders.

They decided to send missionaries, engineers, tradesman and other qualified individuals into the Indian camps to teach them the value of commerce and to share resources.

They taught them new methods of farming and cultivation, animal husbandry, principles of commodity marketing and to establish trade ventures with other markets.

This intrusion on the Indian way of life did not set well with some of the tribes, after all, the Indian culture was based on a self-sustaining lifestyle and these invaders were teaching alien and undignified methods of dependency.

Indians functioned as a hunter/warrior society; the whites were advocating changes in opposition to their centuries-old harmonious lifestyle. For instance, the whites advocated farming; warriors and hunters do not till the field...that is women's work.

However, the majority of the Cherokee tribe accepted these new ideas and because their leadership had the foresight to recognize the value of progress, wasted no time in adopting the white man's ways hoping to share in the harvest of prosperity for their people.

For centuries, the Cherokees had been forced into warfare. The whites offered peace if the Cherokees would base their society on agricultural pursuits. Willing to please the white man, in obedience, they adopted white language even naming their children using white men's names.

As white men increasingly married into the tribes, the white fathers, mostly of European ethnicity named their sons and daughters after European names. These names carried the European tradition of first name, middle name and surname.

They may have been given Indian names like, Running Deer or Soaring Eagle but also they took on the names of Jones, Smith, Pratt, Carter, Blanton, Adams and the given names of George, James, John, Frederick, Mary, Susan, and Elizabeth conducting their businesses under those names.

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They built schools fashioned after the white man's. They adopted the white man's religion and built churches. They built settlements and towns fashioned after the white man's. They completely converted to the white man's way in order to bring peace and harmony to their settlements.

By the 1750's, white settlers from east of the Appalachian Mountains were moving further and further westward encroaching on Indian settlements.

Most were homesteaders and farmers looking for free land because all the good land east of the mountains belong to the rich plantation owners and as the population increased, the only space left was westward.

This brought conflict and violence to the area's native residents who lived west of the mountains. When the American Revolution seemed eminent, the Americans approached the Indians of all tribes asking for help in fighting the British.

However, the Indians knew the Americans could not be trusted and were reluctant to offer assistance.

The British on the other hand, promised the Indians if *they* win the war, they would keep the settlers in check and not allow them to cross the mountains into the Indians homelands.

This was exactly what the Indians wanted and the Cherokees fought on the side of the British.

After the war, fearing retribution from the new American government, the Cherokees were at a disadvantage and had to submit to the new government and by treaties; the American government took their land away in massive amounts.

Prior to this the Cherokees had land holdings from the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky to the South Carolina and Georgia territories.

As time went on, the Government produced treaty after treaty blackmailing the Indians with war if they did not capitulate.

Year after year they saw their hunting grounds and prime farmland taken away.

In 1814, Andrew Jackson solicited the aid of the Cherokees to fight in the Creek Indian War.

Wanting to befriend the citizens of the United States, and establish close ties, the Cherokees agreed and fought by Jackson's side. Without their help, Jackson would have been defeated.

By the early 1820's, the Cherokees had established homes and businesses rivaling their white neighbors.

They were producing crops and grains in the thousands of bushels on some plantations. They had built large two or three story homes out of plank boards or brick and had developed the land into prosperous homesteads.

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They operated ferry services across rivers and some became very wealthy. This success instilled jealousy and covetous in their white neighbors.

Laws were passed in Washington to take away the properties of the Indian tribes.

After losing the war, all through their development, in an attempt to please the great white father of Washington, the Cherokees obediently submitted to the American government.

They dressed like white men, they spoke like white men, they adopted customs of the white men and intermarried with white men, they even named their children after white men, and effectively for all practical purposes...they became white men.

But the prejudice and greed from prominent citizens persuaded the Washington government that the Indians were a threat and must be moved out west for *their* safety.

This was the excuse Jackson used to argue for his removal policy. He was removing the Indians for their safety and drew up more than 70 treaties to “protect” the Indian peoples in his eight-year term.

Under his “protection” 46,000 Indians had lost their homeland and were removed westward.

Every one of those treaties called for voluntary and peaceful removal to the west. However, Jackson had other plans.

Those that didn’t volunteer for removal were removed forcibly... at bayonet point.

***“While many contemporary authors have erroneously argued or implied that emigration to the West was obligatory for all eastern Indians under the terms of the Removal Act itself, others have focused attention on Jackson’s implementation of that legislation, and some have even equaled his removal policy with Adolph Hitler’s “final solution” to the so-called Jewish problem in Nazi Germany”¹⁵¹.*”**

Because of the massive loss of life and the far-reaching consequences of his decisions against the Native Americans, I feel, Jackson suffered physically in his waning years.

With the burden of guilt as a constant companion, also in an attempt to prove “he was not an Indian hater”; he adopted an Indian boy to live at his home; Hermitage in Nashville, TN.

I feel this was an act of a desperate man in a feeble attempt to gain sympathy and quell the critics.

With this history of betrayal, no wonder Henry Pratt & family hid in the caves of Hamilton Valley for protection.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

¹⁵¹ “Cherokee Removal Before and After”, edited by William L. Anderson (1991) Page 47, Footnote 13, University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA

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SEVEN CLANS

The Cherokee peoples had a proud and rich heritage. There was order, laws and fairness to their society and before the white man arrived, they felt they were doing just fine.

Their social structure was broken down into clans. Once there were 15 clans but over time they have been lost to the tribes. Seven clans remain today. The organizational harmony of these clans is something to be admired.

It is a proven fact that several of the Blantons, Harmons, Lusters and Carters and Nancy (**CARTER**)'s siblings married native peoples. This was a common practice and did not carry the prejudice that overhangs the western Indians, like the Apache, Comanche, Blackfoot and others. Still, marrying an Indian in the late 1800's was a taboo for eastern "civilized" white American society.

However, when the Government of the United States needed the Indian help, in the early history of this country, to fight for them, it was a different story. They encouraged intermarriage...it kept the wars down to a minimum. After all, how can you go to war with your in-laws? Not that, that was much of a deterrent.

As far as the Cherokees go, it is and was their custom to marry within the tribe.

There are now seven divisions in the tribe called clans. A clan is a large group of people who held the common belief they had descended from a common ancestor. This was held as extremely important and determined who and from which clan you could marry.

Men and women of the same clan could not marry due to their close relationship.

Concerning the children, Cherokee children are the responsibility of the Mother's clan. The mother's brothers and family played a very important role in rearing the children, more so than her husband's family. The reason being, although the father loved his children, according to the natives, he was considered a member of a different clan and was not related by blood.

This is an interesting concept; recent discoveries in genetic engineering claim they can trace your bloodline all the way back through the matriarchal line...supposedly to Eve through your DNA.

The seven clans are; Long Hair, Bird, Deer, Wolf, Wild Potato, Paint and Blue.¹⁵²

- Long Hair Clan, is also known as the Wind Clan, Hair Hanging Down Clan, or the Twister clan. They wore their hair in a distinctive way. Peace chiefs came from the Long Hair Clan.
- The Bird Clan members are the keepers of the birds and are the messengers.

¹⁵² "Cherokee" by Robert J. Conley (2002) Graphic Arts Center Publishing Co., Portland, OR, Page 25

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- The Deer Clan members are the keepers of the deer and are fast runners and good hunters.
- The Wolf Clan is the largest of the clans. War Chiefs usually came from the Wolf clan, and only members of the Wolf Clan were allowed to kill a wolf.
- The members of the Wild Potato Clan also known as the Bear Clan, Raccoon Clan, or Blind Savannah Clan, are the keepers of the land.
- The Paint Clan members are the Sorcerers and medicine people.
- The Blue Clan is also known as the Panther Clan or the Wildcat Clan and produced medicine people for the children.

Most Cherokees today do not know their clan affiliation.

If you were a member of the Paint Clan and you traveled to one of the 200 cities the Cherokees had established, the Paint Clan members of that city would welcome you as a relative of their clan. They would feed you and give you lodging and treat you as family even if you were not directly related to that particular group of people.

If I had to guess which clan Henry Pratt belonged to, I would guess the Wolf Clan¹⁵³ or Bear Clan because the Pratts have always been great outdoorsmen.

Even to this day, my father has enjoyed being outdoors and taught us boys how to hunt, fish and work the land.

My most enjoyable time in my life was when I lived and worked on a 5-acre farm in Marshfield, MO. We raised goats, pigs, chickens and cattle as well as the largest garden in the area. We had 13 rows of strawberries each row was 100 feet in length. We knew our neighbors and helped each other in times of need.

Working there, in those few short years brought harmony and peace to my life and I was happy.

Living in harmony with nature, the Cherokees were masters of their environment. Living in harmony within the tribe was also structured to secure a harmonious family-based society.

Marrying outside the race was not condemned but marrying within the tribe was preferable.

With rigid rules of etiquette, marriage was encouraged to strengthen relationships and build alliances. These alliances were vital for the safety, protection and survival of the tribe.

Which lead us to a peculiar¹⁵⁴ but understandable event about the Pratts and Blantons.

¹⁵³ More about this later.

¹⁵⁴ Peculiar to the white men.

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THE INTERMARRIAGE FACTOR

After Absalom Blanton moved from Franklin County and bought some land in Hamilton Hollow in 1849¹⁵⁵, he moved close to Henry Pratt's residence and their children began to marry...**each other!**

It was tribal custom to marry within your own tribe. Forbidden to marry within the same clan.

When the white men began to inter-marry with the Cherokee women, they demanded the matrilineal line be dissolved. They insisted the male bilateral line would be traced and the man was the head of the house.

I feel this was an important factor and the Missouri Blantons and Missouri Pratts in all probability may have been descended of the same tribe.

Henry Pratt, who we believe is a brother to Cynthia, wife of Absalom Blanton suggests Henry & Cynthia belonged to the same clan.

In any case, Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt's children and Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton's children were first cousins.

The first to inter-marry was Alexander A. Blanton Sr. and Nancy Maria (**PRATT**), 14 Oct 1849 in Crawford Co., MO.

Alexander was living with his parents in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Township, Washington County and Nancy Maria was living with her mother near Carter Creek, Boone Township, Crawford County next door to her sister, Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) who had married Henry H. Hansel Sr.

Both were around 19 years of age.

This pinpoints the whereabouts of the Absalom Blanton family and places them in Hamilton Hollow according to the 3 November 1849 deed.

By 1849, widow, Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt had moved next to her daughter, Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansel to help her with the children.

The following is a chart outlining the probability of the likelihood of inter-marriage between the two families.

¹⁵⁵ DEED: Washington Co., MO, Deed Book "H", Page 620 & 621, 3 Nov 1849: A homestead in connection therewith and more particular by as described as follows to wit the seven acres unto of the Northwest corner of the South West Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-Nine of Township Forty - North of Range One-West of 5th RM (SW SW 29.40 1W) being the tract of land conveyed to A. BLANTON by deed dated Nov 3rd 1849 of BENJAMIN A. SOULARD, FRANCIS W. KIRKPATRICK and CHARLES BRACKEN which deed was filed June 12th 1854 and recorded in book "H" Page 620 & 621 of the records of Washington County.

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INTERRELATIONSHIP MARRIAGE CHART

Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**)'s Children:

<u>James</u> Blanton married Margaret Green Goforth ¹⁵⁶	(Dau of Willoughby & Martha (MARQUIS) Goforth from KY)
Elizabeth Blanton married John D. Allen ¹⁵⁷	(Son of Robert & Martha (KERR) Allen from NY)
<u>Alexander</u> Blanton Sr. married Nancy Maria <u>Pratt</u> ¹⁵⁸	(Dau of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt)
<u>Elbert</u> Sevier Blanton married Mary Elizabeth <u>Pratt</u> ¹⁵⁹	(Dau of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt)
John Allen Blanton married Margaret Serice Blanton ¹⁶⁰	(Dau of Joshua & Bethany (HARMON) Blanton)
<u>Mary</u> Caroline Blanton married John Absalom <u>Pratt</u> ¹⁶¹	(Son of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt)
<u>Henry</u> Hubert Blanton married Matilda Jane <u>Pratt</u> ¹⁶²	(Dau of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt)
William Wesley Blanton married Mary Ann Blanton ¹⁶³	(Dau of Joshua & Bethany (HARMON) Blanton)
Martin Van Buren not believed married	

Married Children = 8

Percentage of children marrying Pratts = 50%

Percentage of children marrying Blantons = 20% (cousins)

Percentage of children marrying same Pratt Family = 100%

Percentage of children marrying same Blanton family = 100%

Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**)'s Children:

Susan A. Pratt married Henry H. Hansell ¹⁶⁴	(Son of William & Elizabeth (McGINNIS) Hansel of NC)
James Pratt married Catherine Kimberlin ¹⁶⁵	(Dau of Rhinard & Frances (PETERS) Kimberlin of VA)
Lorenda Pratt married Samuel Campbell ¹⁶⁶	(Son of David & Bathsheba (CARTER) Campbell of TN)
<u>Nancy</u> Maria Pratt married <u>Alexander</u> <u>Blanton</u> Sr.	(Son of Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton)
<u>Alexander</u> R. Pratt married Mary Kimberlin ¹⁶⁷	(Dau of Rhinard & Frances (PETERS) Kimberlin of VA)
<u>Sarah</u> Ann Pratt married John Anderson <u>Blanton</u> ¹⁶⁸	(Son of Joshua & Bethany (HARMON) Blanton)
<u>John</u> Absalom Pratt married Mary Caroline <u>Blanton</u>	(Dau of Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton)
<u>Mary</u> Elizabeth Pratt married Elbert Sevier <u>Blanton</u>	(Son of Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton)
<u>Matilda</u> Jane Pratt married Henry Hubert <u>Blanton</u>	(Son of Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton)

Married Children = 9

Percentage of children marrying Blantons = 56%

Percentage of children marrying Pratts = 0% (cousins)

Percentage of children marrying Kimberlins = 22%

Percentage of children marrying same Kimberlin family = 100%

Percentage of children marrying same Blanton family = 44%

¹⁵⁶ Washington Co., MO, Marriage Book "A" Page 77 (8 Nov 1849)

¹⁵⁷ Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO. (1846)

¹⁵⁸ Crawford Co., MO, Marriage Book "A", Page 176. (14 Oct 1859)

¹⁵⁹ Washington Co., MO Marriage Book "B" page 126 (24 Mar 1853) (double wedding with sister Caroline)

¹⁶⁰ Around 1853/1854

¹⁶¹ Washington Co., MO., Marriage Book "B", Page 126 (24 Mar 1853) (double wedding with brother Elbert)

¹⁶² Washington Co., MO, Marriage Book "B", page 198 (5 Jun 1857)

¹⁶³ Franklin Co., MO. Book "C", Page 109. (8 Oct 1867)

¹⁶⁴ Around 1841/1842

¹⁶⁵ Around 1847/1849

¹⁶⁶ Crawford Co., MO, Marriage Book "A", page 151 (16 Mar 1848)

¹⁶⁷ Washington Co., MO, Marriage Book "B", page 181 (28 Jun 1856)

¹⁶⁸ Date from Goodspeed's (10 Aug 1851)

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In conclusion, in my 30 years of family research I have never seen more than 2 siblings marry two siblings of another family.

These figures show an extremely high probability that there was more than chance applied to arrange these marriages.

The probability of 50% of your 9 children marrying the same family is an extreme improbability.

Tribal custom must have played a dominant factor.

Another peculiar marriage, when Absalom's wife, Cynthia (**PRATT**) died in 1851, her brother, Henry Pratt had died between 1842/1850 leaving Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt a widow.

On 21 March 1852, Absalom Blanton marries widow Pratt...Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt. Of course both of these people were of white ancestry.

Need another example? Alexander Blanton Sr. (Cherokee) who married 1st Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) (Cherokee) married a second time to the widow, Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt (white) wife of James Pratt, (Cherokee) son of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.¹⁶⁹

Once again, tribal custom?

Peculiar marriage customs indeed to white men, but not if you were Cherokee.

If Henry and Cynthia were brother and sister, and they had the same father and mother, then most likely they came from the same clan.

Apparently tribal law of not marrying in the same clan does not apply to their children. Even though they were first cousins.

Otherwise we are faced with several hypotheses:

- *Henry and Cynthia were not related and were not of the same clan.* The Pratt researchers are mute on this subject of relationship. The Blanton researchers are relatively sure they were brother/sister.
- *Tribal law of marrying in the same clan did not apply to their children.* I would think the law was supposed to apply to all inter-clan relations regardless.
- *They chose to ignore the tribal law of marrying in the same clan.* This is most likely the scenario and gets my vote.

Regardless, intermarriage did take place between first cousins.

¹⁶⁹ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, Book "C", Page 183: Alexander Blanton Sr. and Catherine Pratt were married on 17 Oct 1875.

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SECLUSION

What would motivate Henry & Absalom to hide in the hills of Hamilton Hollow, far away from the commerce of society and eyes of the law?

As that article stated, *“with the caves and springs being much more plentiful than in the flatter lands to the north, made this area a good hiding place against the law, or civilization in general.”*

If you have ever been to Hamilton Hollow you know it is no place to raise a family. Steep hills and narrow valleys make it an ideal place...for hiding.

To recap what you have learned, when the government started to round up the Indians, Henry Pratt and his children had to leave, but Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt could have stayed in Monroe County, TN with her brothers, sisters, father and mother or go west alone with her family. She chose the latter.

Contrary to misinformation, none of her relatives (CARTERS) (HARMONS) accompanied her to Missouri and when they did move west they don't arrive until several years later and not even in the same county of Missouri.

Concerning Absalom Blanton, he was a white man who married Cynthia Ann (**PRATT**) an Indian. Therefore, he was not going to let her go west with the children alone and decided they would go as a family on *his* terms and *his* time schedule.

The reason I believe he was a white man or could pass as a white man, was because of all his legal transactions he had in Greene County, TN and then St. Louis, Franklin, Washington, and Crawford Counties of Missouri.

Remember, in 1824 Missouri passed a law that whites could not do business with Indians?

In contrast, Henry Pratt didn't conduct any legal business that can be found.

The Blantons on the other hand, were a family of means and prior to the 1850's had extensive land and property holdings both in Tennessee and Missouri.

I believe Absalom's brother; Abner came with them to Missouri and maybe his younger brother, Ezekiel.

However, Ezekiel settled in Gasconade Co., MO for a short time and then he moved to Jackson Twsp., Osage Co., MO by the 1850 census¹⁷⁰.

Abner settled in Franklin Co. with Absalom and spent the next 35 years there before he moved to Cass Twsp., Texas Co., MO¹⁷¹.

¹⁷⁰ Census: 1850 Jackson Twsp., Osage Co., MO.

¹⁷¹ Census: 1870 Cass Twsp., Texas Co., MO., House 64?

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Joshua Blanton does not leave Monroe Co., TN for Scott Co., Missouri until sometime in 1841. Then Joshua moved to Madison Co., MO in 1842 before he settled in Washington Co., MO between 1847/1849.

James Jr. & Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Lynch settled in Pulaski Co., MO which was on the Trail of Tears around 1839/1841.

They were close friends of David & Bathsheba (**CARTER**) Campbell from Greene County, TN and both families settled in Pulaski County. However, the Campbells didn't arrive in Pulaski County until 1845/1850. More about the Campbells later.

In 1840, Absalom sold his land in Franklin Co., MO and moved to the Hamilton Hollow area sometime before 1849. He must have scouted the area and found the mining deposits.

On the old maps, Hamilton Creek was originally known as Blandor or Blanton Branch.

There is a spring called Pratt Spring and on the top of the hills are the cemeteries that most of us believe the Pratts and Blantons are buried. I estimate over 100 people are buried there. More about the cemeteries later.

Secluded, quiet, safe and isolated but close enough to town (Sullivan), the Hamilton Valley afforded good surroundings and safety in numbers.

Several families with mixed blood relationships lived in a "nest" in Hamilton Valley and kept to themselves. Outsiders were not welcomed and because of the close inter-marital relationships, each family looked out for each other.

Reading the old newspapers¹⁷² of that area, one gets to take a journey back in time and glimpse the life and times of the people of that region.

There is a spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood. Fiercely loyal to one another, but a neighbor in need never went wanting.

In order to get a better feel about the area, Jo Schaper wrote a second article about Hamilton Valley.

The following is Part 2 of History of the Hamilton Valley.

¹⁷² These newspapers are on microfilm at the Missouri State Historical Society in Columbia, MO.

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History of the Hamilton Valley-Part II

By Jo Schaper

Much of the historical interest in the Hamilton Valley has to do with its geology-- the profusion of caves, springs and economically important minerals, have provided part of the livelihoods of people since the 1830's.

Although crude by modern standards, the Hamilton Iron Works and the Abbeville Lead mine were early examples of Ozark Manufacturing, based on readily available resources, and resourceful people. The failure of these enterprises was based on the lack of cheap transportation, not the unavailability of minerals, power, or man.

The settlement information comes from Dolly Lahmann¹⁷³, a 74 year old nurse and factory worker who has lived in the neighboring area since 1933, coming from Blackwell, MO, via the old General Harney place where her grandparents lived, confirmed by Goodspeed's History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, 1888.

Much of the mineralogical data is courtesy of Dr. John Cantwell, professor of mathematics, St. Louis University, and two old books: The Iron Ores of Missouri, G.W. Crane, 1912, and Pyrites Deposits of Missouri, Oliver R. Grawe, 1945. A Report on the Iron Ores of Missouri, Frank Nason, 1892, was also helpful, as was Dwight Weaver's Meramec Caverns book.

Settlement: The area of the Hamilton Valley was settled in the 1840's by a settlement party from Greenville¹⁷⁴, Monroe County, Tennessee consisting of Blantons, Pratts, Taylors, Carters, and Pruitts.¹⁷⁵

These families intermarried as is evident from Mrs. Lahmann's account that her grandmother was Mary Ellen Pratt, and her great-great grandmother was Mary Ellen Blanton¹⁷⁶. On this lead, I discovered a biography¹⁷⁷ of John A. Blanton, born 1830 in Monroe Co., Tenn., married 8-10-51 to Sarah Pratt (daughter of John Pratt¹⁷⁸). He was a farmer, lead smelter operator (iron?) and later, a blacksmith in Sullivan. He was a southern sympathizer who fought at Pea Ridge, AR. His children were Charles, Alexander, Susan, Nancy, Virginia, Bethanie, John W., Phoebe, Edward, Fred and Emily J. The significance of the Blantons to the area will be discussed a bit later.

Other settlers in the area worth noting include Stephen Sullivan, who is supposed to have built a log cabin near Hamilton Ford before becoming the founder of the town of Sullivan. The first settlers of record in Township 40, Range 1 West were John McEwin, and Ben Kimberling¹⁷⁹, in 1825.

¹⁷³ Dolly (STUDDARD) Lahmann, wife of Chester Lahmann and daughter of John A. & Susan (WEST) Studdard, John A. son of James Franklin & Mary Ellen (PRATT) Studdard, Mary Ellen daughter of Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt, Alexander son of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt.

¹⁷⁴ Should be: Greeneville, Greene Co., TN and Monroe Co., TN -Tom Pratt

¹⁷⁵ This is in error as I have proven. The Blantons were already in Franklin County, the Taylors were in Liberty Twsp., Washington Co., MO by 1840, and the Pruitts were in Galena Twsp., Franklin Co., MO by the 1840's and the Carters never did settle in Washington County.-Tom Pratt

¹⁷⁶ This is incorrect. Mary Ellen (PRATT)'s mother was Mary (KIMBERLIN) who married Alexander R. Pratt.

¹⁷⁷ She is referring to the Goodspeed's article, which left out 3 of the Blanton children. -Tom Pratt

¹⁷⁸ This will be addressed in detail. - Tom Pratt

¹⁷⁹ Benjamin Kimberling is Mary (KIMBERLIN)'s uncle.

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A James Hamilton is recorded in T.39, R. 1 E, in 1836, but at this time the namesake of the Valley is still unknown. An attempt to draw conclusion from the coincidence of the junction of the Hamilton and Gamble Hollows, and Hamilton R. Gamble, federal governor of Missouri during the Civil War drew a blank, as the Governor was born in eastern United States, and resident in St. Louis and St. Charles, not Crawford, Franklin, or Washington counties. If Pea Ridge were a namesake of the aforementioned battle, it would be highly unlikely that anyone would name hollows for Union officials!

According to Mrs. Lahmann, her grandmother was raised below the iron furnace. The houses (and residents) she recalls in the valley were: Penny Miller, who owned the modern house at Hamilton Spring; there was also an old log cabin up the hill above the spring; Lester & Alice Waldo (and son David) who lived at the house at the head of the cave hollow. They owned the dairy farm where the large slab is along the main road, and the silo still stands.

She said they owned much of the valley. Dr. Cantwell recalls a pavilion type building at the head of the cave hollow; he said it was built after 1955, and there was a charge to use it. Then, her grandmother's house was across the creek, below the cave.

She said the house at Pratt Spring was a modern one, and she didn't know much about it.

Finally, there was the Crow Mansion, whose last owner was Ross Crow. It had 3 stories, thirteen rooms, and an incredible handmade banister. *The Crows were supposedly quite wealthy and eccentric. Local legend claims that the property was simply abandoned during the Depression; it was sold as scrap lumber despite abortive attempts to save it after the property came into the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers.*

*Also of interest are the old cemeteries in the valley. That marked on the topo map, was, according to Mrs. Lahmann, half destroyed by the road which now runs alongside it. This road was to be an access to a hilltop lakeside subdivision under the Corps plan--**local residents became quite irate after the bulldozer began unearthing graves.***

Most of the graves in this cemetery are unmarked sunken hollows --only those of Sigdena Rogers (d.1876) and John Allen (date uncertain) remain from early times, though newer interments are clearly marked.

The second gravesite is across the valley from Hamilton Cave and consists of about 30 graves. Here is, where the Monroe County settlers, including Mrs. Lahmann's grandmother were buried.

History of the Hamilton Iron Furnace: Although the settlement information is no doubt fascinating, the real purpose of this study is to find information on Hamilton Iron Works. Luckily, she was able to enlighten me, since her grandfather¹⁸⁰ and great uncles made charcoal for the furnace. She said the works provided a livelihood for 100+ people (workers and dependents) in the immediate area.

¹⁸⁰ Her grandfather would be James Franklin Studdard who married Mary Ellen (PRATT) daughter of Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt.

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In the six years (1873-1878) that the furnace operated, a community grew, with its own post office and store. The lower part of the valley (along the creek) including her land was owned by the Hamilton Iron Company of St. Louis, she said, and the Abbeyville Lead Company owned the land from her house up to what is now Highway 185.

(A check of City Registers for the years 1873-1878 yielded no Hamilton Iron Company, although I found Hanson A Hamilton, iron roller, 1873; James Hamilton, stoves & tinware, 1874; Robert F. Hamilton, Rolling mill, 1874; same name, Vulcan Iron Works, 1875; and A. Hamilton, Laclede rolling mill" 1873-1875. What connection, if any, these had with the Iron Works is uncertain.)

She seemed certain this was the destination of the iron pigs, as she explained that they hauled the iron by team and wagon over the Hamilton Ford and into Sullivan, where it went by rail to St. Louis. The high cost of transportation put the furnace out of business, though generally bad economic conditions played their part.

After the furnace closed, people went into timber and farming to make a living. She claims that charcoal kilns still exist in side valleys, though it would probably take an archeologist and a local guide to find them.

Her younger grandson told a story of a black man burned to death during the operations of the works; this story may be folklore or fact, hard telling.

One crucial item: where did the ore come from? The accompanying map¹⁸¹ pinpoints locations listed as workings in 1888 and 1892;

Blanton Mine..... N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 29

Blanton Bank.....S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 29

-----SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 31

Primrose Mine.....SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32

-----SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33

from Iron Ores of Missouri

I have indicated these areas by squares on the sketch map. Pickaxes indicate topo marked mines, from the 1937 Meramec 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ quad, and the current quad as well.

The mine across the river is the Copper or Red Hill mine, at which significant quantities of copper were also mined. The pickaxe in Primrose Hollow is the location (now a pond) of a shaft mine, which Mrs. Lahmann said, supplied much of the ore used at Hamilton.

According to her, winches were used to haul the ore up; those winches were powered by stationary steam engines, which she said was also the motive force for the blowers at the iron furnace.

Also marked on the map by large dots below the words "iron works" are the ore piles, which I found in May along an old trace road in the woods.

¹⁸¹ I have not included that map in this publication-Tom Pratt.

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She made reference to "gathering stones off the hill behind the works;" perhaps these piles are the remnants of this, or a storage area for ore.

Immediately uphill from the furnace (within, 100 feet) are animal burrows --one going into an old charcoal dump, and the other into purple stained ground--perhaps ore or tailings. In any event the reader can compare the marked and legally designated locations. Chances are, several are actually only one location, displaced by poor surveying.

In text, there are references to ore from Silver Hollow (near Lone Hill) being pigged at Hamilton; it seems a distance, but not unreasonably so. The community of Reedville near Silver Hollow was also a mining community, and no doubt had connections with Hamilton; an article on Reedville in the Sullivan Independent News, Oct. 31, 1973, featured a picture of the Hamilton furnace.

References in the Goodspeed history refer to the Canada bank of blue specular ore, the Shields bank of red ore, and the nearby Christy. Of these I have been able to find information only on the Christy, location: SE¼ NW¼ Sec. 12, T. 38 N. R.2 W. in Crawford County. It apparently was much closer to the Scotia Iron Furnace, however.

The sort of ore refined in the Hamilton Furnace was of the blue specular and red/purple earthy varieties. Similar ores at the Meramec Springs location were formed probably during the Cretaceous from the leaching and weathering of Pennsylvanian sediments, in which iron had precipitated with sulfides as pyrites and marcasites.

After uplift and erosion, oxygen and carbon dioxide bearing waters oxidized the iron sulfides to goethite and limonite (brown, low iron content ore) and in the presence of copper and potassium, hematite. Erosion revealed these filled sinks by removing chert, dolomite, limestone, or sandstone. The top layers of these ores were suited by charcoal blast furnace because of their low sulfur content.

Most of the hematite varies from 40-60% iron, with some of a higher grade. The blue ore is of higher grade, but less quantity than the red. The limonites are not especially suitable, because of their lower iron content, although quite plentiful.

Mrs. Lahmann said the furnace was intact in 1933 when she arrived, but it was partly dismantled then to furnish stones for the dam at Pratt Spring, and the pond near the new visitor's center in the park. She said they took the metal pipes to use as culverts when the road washed out badly once; several others have said one of these locations is on the long hill road up from what was Moosehead Shell. She said the lintel stone was not moved to the cave hollow then, but later, by the Waldos.

Hamilton Cave was apparently of no economic significance to this settlement; as far as she knew, the cave had been used for picnics and parties and getting out of the heat, but nothing else.

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She said the sinkhole on the ridge above Hamilton Spring was an intermittent pond; she believed it connected with Mud Cave (Hamilton Spring Cave) due to leaves being found in the back of the Cave after heavy rains. I'm unsure about this; it seems more likely to be connected to Hamilton Spring itself, not the cave.

The only other history tidbit I have found so far is Weaver's reference: (p. 45, Sullivan Sentinel, June, 1906) " The explorers club, consisting of a jolly lot of young folks from St. Louis, made their 4th annual trip to Sullivan last Sunday, in a special car which was set out for them here. About 40 were in the party this trip, and they went out to Marquis Cave on Hamilton Branch for the day." No doubt, a reference to big Hamilton Cave.

P.S. After rereading this report, I noticed I neglected the information on the Abbeyville Lead Mine. There were two shafts to this mine, which is located between her property and highway 185. Her brother worked there briefly in 1929.

It too had a winch/steam engine system of hoisting, and a boardinghouse where the miners lived. The remains of the boilers are still up on the hill, she said. No doubt the depression closed its operation.

Also, in reference to the Blanton family, the names of the two mines imply that they also were well to do for the time and place. Full paragraph descriptions of the 2 Blanton mines and the Primrose Mine are available in Nason's Iron Ores of Missouri. There is the distinct possibility (not certain) that cave clay was used as the plugging agent in the furnace.
August 1989 *Jo Schaper*

"HEMATITIES OF THE FILLED SINKS"¹⁸²

"Blanton Limonite Bank" S1/2, SW1/4, Sec 29, T40N, R1W

"The limonite bank here is on the southern slope of the Blanton hills. The surface ore occurs in pieces and large boulders and can be traced about one hundred and fifty feet down the slope and sixty feet along the slope. On the hill above the ore sandstone and chert in blocks and fragments occur; in the ravine or branch at the foot of the hill bedded limestone is found exposed."

"Blanton Specular Mine" N1/2, SE1/4, Sec 29, T40N, R1W.

"Some rounded surface ore, mostly small, is found here, on three spurs of a low ridge. The spurs point about north and strata of solid sandstone crop out at foot of each. A hole, dug fifteen feet deep on the top of the most eastern spur passed through drifted, sandy detritus, with little ore, then struck a layer of chert. This bank is on a hill thickly covered with detritus, through which single pieces of specular ore are unequally distributed. The ore itself is of good quality."

¹⁸² "A Report on the Iron Ores of Missouri", by Frank Nason, (1892) page 344

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You saw on my topographical map of that area a spring named Pratt Spring, which is, were the Blantons and Pratts lived south of Sullivan.

Also note Section 29 where the Blanton mines were located.

WHY SETTLE THERE?

I asked Lou Bobbit, the grandson of Polina "Lina" (**PRATT**) Callahan, daughter of Alexander R. Pratt, if his Grandma ever told them why they settled in this part of Missouri.

He said that Grandma "Lina" told him that the Pratts settled here because "the land looked just like their home in Tennessee". Mountainous rolling hills and meadows with lots of caves.

If you ever get to Sullivan MO and drive south down through those hills like I have, you will fall in love with the terrain and countryside. It is beautiful, and it probably made them homesick.



Because Polina (**PRATT**) Callahan referred to the terrain of Washington County, Missouri as a similitude of her grandparent's home in Monroe County, Tennessee, infers a homesick or longing for their homeland in Tennessee.

The caves, hills, forests and fresh water springs were exactly what they left in Monroe County.

Since Polina was not even born yet, in fact the Trail of Tears journey took place 30 years before she was born, she must have heard her relatives talk about Tennessee and the home of her ancestors with longing and regret. How sad.

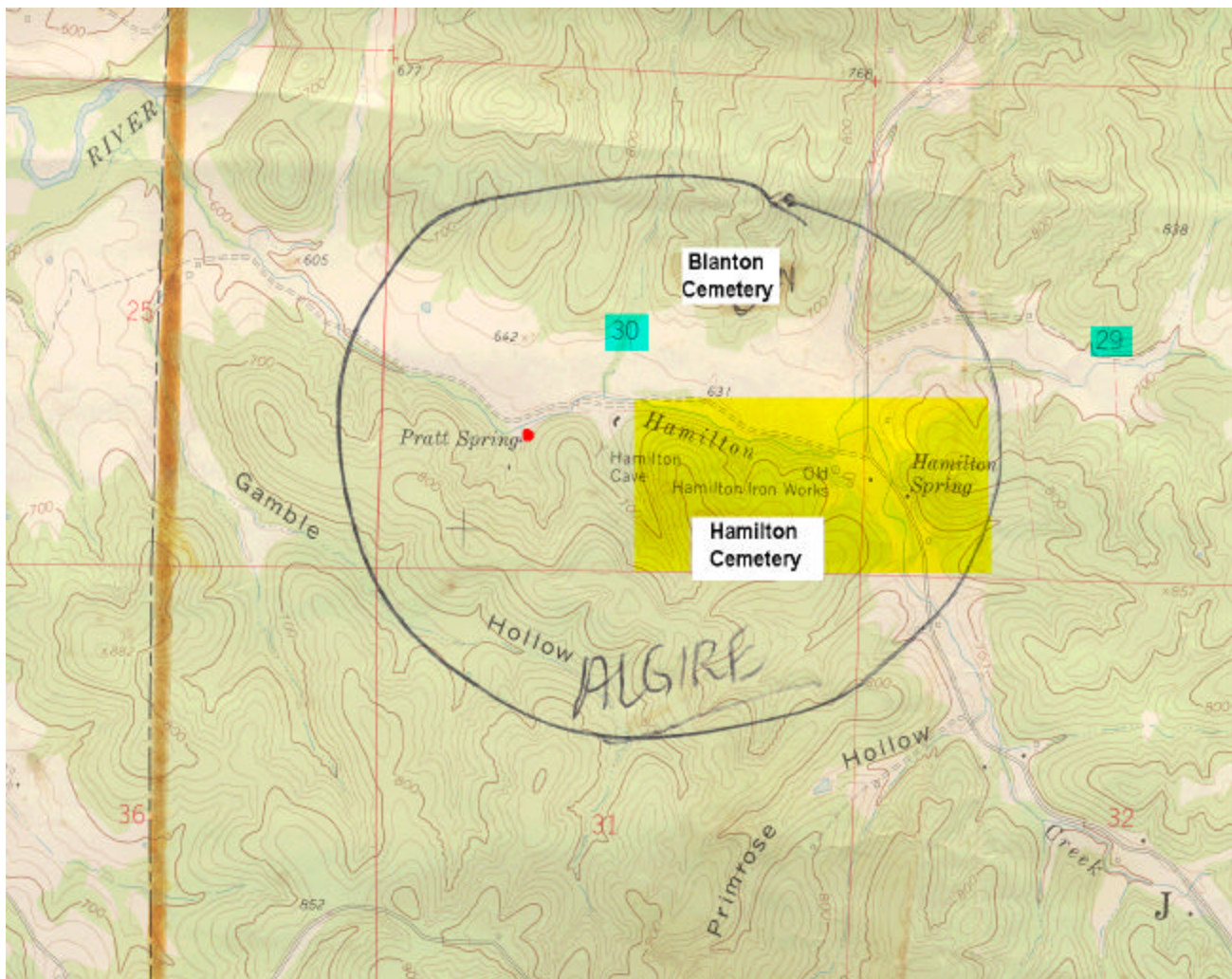
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THE BLANTON MANSION

Concerning the above story about the big house at Hamilton Hollow that was the Ross Crow residence. That big house was apparently Absalom Blanton's residence and homestead on Hamilton Creek.

When Absalom Blanton died on 4 March 1872, on 3 May 1872, his widow, Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton sold the homestead to The Missouri Smelting and Mineral Land Co. for \$300¹⁸³. This property consisted of 7 acres located in the southwest corner of Section 29 on Hamilton Creek and 40 acres in the southeast corner of Section 30 on Hamilton Creek.



The yellowed area is the homestead and property of Absalom Blanton and family later bought by Ross Crow.

More about this property later.

¹⁸³ Deed: Quit Claim Deed, Washington Co., MO Book "U" page 322

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THE CONTROVERSY OVER JOHN

Jo Schaper in her report **History of the Hamilton Valley-Part II**¹⁸⁴ referenced the Goodspeed's article about John & Sarah Ann (PRATT) Blanton.

This Goodspeed's article states that Sarah Ann (PRATT)'s father was "John Pratt an old and honored citizen of Tennessee."

This article was written in 1888 and I believe it is in error. Over the years, as I have referenced the Goodspeed's collection of biographies, I have found many errors. Errors in names, places and dates concerning biographical information.

Concerning (JOHN) HENRY PRATT as his name, in all the legal documents I have found in not one instance did he ever refer to himself as JOHN, J. HENRY PRATT, J.H. PRATT or any other usage of the name JOHN.

As I read articles and correspondence from other Pratt researchers, each one refers to Henry Pratt as John. When I ask for validation they have no documentation, only what someone else has told them.

The source of this confusion lies in the Goodspeed's Article of 1888.

In the Goodspeed's "**History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties of Missouri**", 1888, is an article written about John A. BLANTON, the blacksmith of Sullivan, MO.

It mentions his wife, Sarah Ann (PRATT) and the article states her father's name is "JOHN PRATT, an old honored citizen of Tennessee".

Goodspeed's "**History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri**" 1970, Reprint of the 1888, Page 722:

"JOHN A. BLANTON, a blacksmith and wagon-maker, of Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO., was born in Monroe County, Tenn., May 1, 1830. He is the fourth of fourteen children of JOSHUA and BETHANIE (HARMON), and in 1842 immigrated to Missouri with his parents, who settled in Scott County and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He received a very limited schooling in his native State, and alone mastered the English language sufficiently to engage in business for himself.

He was married August 10 1851, to SARAH A., daughter of JOHN PRATT, an old and honored citizen of Tennessee. Fifteen children were born to this union, seven sons and eight daughters, of whom two sons and two daughters are deceased.

Those living are: CHARLES H., ALEXANDER, SUSAN, NANCY, VIRGINIA, BETHANIE, JOHN W., PHOEBE and EDWARD (twins), FRED, and EMILY J.

¹⁸⁴ "A Brief History of the Hamilton Creek Valley", by Jo Schaper (1989) 6455 Hoffman, St. Louis, MO 63139

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After marriage, Mr. Blanton settled on a farm of ninety acres, which he worked, and followed smelting lead ore for a number of years. In 1861 he began the trade of a blacksmith, which he has since followed.

Then the war broke out he enlisted in the Southern army under Gen. McBride, and participated in the battle of Pea Ridge, a number of skirmishes, and was discharged in 1862.

He returned to his home and resumed his trade in Sullivan, where he now owns a good shop and tools, two houses and lots, and has an enviable reputation as a first-class workman. He is a stanch Democrat, and lends hearty support to his party. Mrs. BLANTON is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South."

Goodspeed published this article in 1888. Sarah Ann died in 1896. It is questionable as to who gave this information to the reporter.

The reference to JOHN PRATT could have been a mistake on Sarah's part, the reporter's or someone else who gave the reporter the information and who thought they knew the Pratt family.

The name John is a strong and duplicated name on the Blanton side of the family, but not the Pratt side of the family!

This article is the only account in writing at that time of his first name of JOHN, which myself and other researchers feel was in error.

Prior to the 1888 article, I cannot find any evidence whether written, legal or verbal that suggests that HENRY PRATT was JOHN HENRY PRATT.

I have prepared my argument in a logical and scientific approach. The following are various references to this name error.

Point 1. The author does not give the source of this information and it does not appear to be from John Anderson Blanton or Sarah A. Pratt. One reason is the language. He states that "John Blanton was born in Monroe County Tenn on May 1, 1830", however the 1850 census shows everyone born before 1842 except his DAD, (Joshua Blanton) born in Virginia. An error on the reporter's part?

However, Joshua Blanton and family moved to Monroe Co., TN some time before the 1830 census.¹⁸⁵ So he could have been born in Monroe Co., TN.

¹⁸⁵ Census: 1830 Monroe Co., TN, Page 99:

BLANTON, Joshua

free white males

4 & under= John age 1

4 & under= Stephen age 1

20-29 = Joshua age 29

free white females

4 & under= (unknown)

4 & under= Ruth A. age 4

20-29 = Bethany age 26

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Point 2. He was married on August 10, 1851 to Sarah A. Pratt, where???? I checked Washington Co., Crawford Co, Ste Genevieve Co., St. Francois Co., Jefferson Co, Dent Co., Gasconade Co., and St. Louis and nowhere is this marriage recorded.

Also John would have been 21 and Sarah if she were Henry Pratt's Sarah, would have been 14 or 15 because she was born in 1836. Maybe this marriage license is in Tennessee. If so, then this Sarah is not our Henry Pratt's Sarah!

Point 3. The article states that "*daughter of JOHN PRATT, an old and honored citizen of Tennessee*". The author speaks in present terms like he is still alive. If he is talking about our Henry Pratt, our Henry Pratt has been dead since before 1849. That's at least 39 to 49 years prior to this article. Wouldn't he have referred to (JOHN) Henry Pratt as being deceased like most of the other Goodspeed biographies?

Why would the author refer to John Pratt as being "an old and honored citizen of TENNESSEE" when we know that HENRY PRATT arrived in MO in 1839?

The truth is Henry would have been an old and honored citizen of MISSOURI for 50 years before this article was written. After all, our HENRY was a resident and not a citizen of Missouri from 1839 to 1849 when we think he died. Another error on the reporter's part?

Point 4. John Blanton named his first son, Charles Henry and the second son, Alexander. John's father was JOSHUA but he never named a son JOSHUA.

If the custom was to name the first son after the Grandfather of the male, then why Charles Henry? John's grandfather was named JOHN BLANTON II. He doesn't follow the pattern. His next son is ALEXANDER. So this is of no help. John could have been referring to John A. Blanton's grandfather. Another error?

If Sarah Ann was the daughter of JOHN Henry Pratt, then why didn't she name one of her sons JOHN HENRY PRATT? In fact she doesn't even name one of her sons, John!

Point 5. William Jesse Blanton told me that Luther "Joker" Blanton, son of William Wesley Blanton, grandson of Cynthia Ann Pratt, told him that Henry Pratt's name was JOHN HENRY PRATT.

Sounds good, but Luther wasn't born until 1881. HENRY PRATT died between 1842/1850; therefore his recollection is hearsay because HENRY DIED 30 years before Luther was born. Could it be the above article was their source? Another error?

Point 6. In the book, "A Century Passes, The Story and the City of Sullivan", 1955, Page 21: "*But all was not work and war in that first decade, there was a colorful social life as well. And there were weddings then too, and large families. August 10, 1861, John A. Blanton and his wife, Sarah A., daughter of JOHN PRATT, celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary. There were 15 children born to this union.*" This was written in 1955 so they probably got their source from Goodspeed's story. More errors.

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Point 7. Darlene Schatz said that her Grandma Dace, she would be Sarah Ann (**BLANTON**) Dace, daughter of Elbert Blanton Sr., granddaughter of Henry Pratt) used the name of JOHN HENRY PRATT. Sarah Ann Blanton was born 1865, fifteen years after Henry's death. Therefore, she was not personally acquainted with HENRY PRATT. She received her information from the Blanton's and probably the Goodspeed Article.

The above are the only instances where the name JOHN HENRY PRATT appears and you really have to make it stretch. I would dismiss everything that came after the Goodspeed's Article because this article is the originator of the misrepresentation.

Point 8. Malinda Irene (**HULSEY**) Murdick told me that her grandmother, Nancy (**BLANTON**) Hulsey, daughter of John Anderson & Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton and granddaughter of Henry Pratt never once spoke of Henry Pratt. She stated that her grandmother was a world of family information and could recall all kinds of stories but never once spoke of John Henry Pratt or Henry Pratt.

If her grandmother who was a family historian, never heard or spoke of Henry Pratt, then how do all these other descendants seem to think they know who he was? Obviously, their source was the Goodspeed article.

Also, if Nancy (**BLANTON**), granddaughter of Henry Pratt said her family never spoke of (John) Henry Pratt, then from whom did the reporter get their information naming John Pratt as Sarah's father?

Apparently, the family of John Anderson & Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton did not talk about him, maybe because he was a Cherokee and they were ashamed or the fear factor was in play.

You must realize the Joshua Blanton family was not as familiar with the Henry Pratt family as Absalom Blanton's family because only one of Joshua's children married a Pratt; Sarah Ann (**PRATT**).

Also, Joshua left Monroe Co., TN in 1842 and settled in Scott Co., MO before he moved to Madison Co., MO and then Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO sometime between 1842/1850¹⁸⁶.

According to the above article by Goodspeed, John and Sarah were supposed to be married on August 10, 1851. By then Henry Pratt had already died and maybe had been dead for 9 years.

Therefore, maybe John's family **had never met** Henry Pratt and since Sarah didn't talk about him, none of her descendants ever knew anything about him either!

¹⁸⁶ See Goodspeed's Article above.

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Point 9. Julia Mae (**HARMON**) Blanton from Steelville, MO was stuck on this issue and contrary to the evidence I gave her, she refused to accept that he wasn't (JOHN) Henry Pratt.

She has submitted her work to various Genealogy sites and organizations naming him (JOHN) Henry Pratt without proof and I have been wasting too much time trying to squash this misinformation.

When people send me their pedigree charts showing John Henry Pratt I ask them where did they get the proof of the name John? They say they got it from the Internet or from one of those articles that Julia Blanton wrote or one of the other Blanton researchers wrote. No proof.

I asked Julia where she got her information that he was (JOHN) Henry Pratt and she wrote to me that Mabel Reed told her. When I asked Mabel where she got the name John, she stated from the 1888 Goodspeed's article.

Mabel Reed started researching the PRATTS a year before I started in 1976. She interviewed people and took notes and checked records and not once did *she* ever find a (JOHN) Henry Pratt other than the Goodspeed's article.

Point 10. One common denominator to the above is that all the information was submitted or recalled by the Blanton side on the family, which has always, since the 1900's, been distant to the Pratts.

In fact, my research has turned up that in the tri-county area, Washington, Crawford & Franklin counties, the Pratts and Blantons did not get along and did not socialized with each other even though their families were intertwined in marriage since the 1840's. Therefore, there isn't much cooperation between the two families even to this day.

This misinformation originated through the Blanton side of the family. Through the years they have perpetuated this argument without documentation or proof.

In over 25 years, not one of the serious Pratt researchers ever found any evidence referring to HENRY PRATT as JOHN.

Let's look at the facts:

- I. HENRY PRATT is named as the husband on the marriage record Oct 3, 1820, Greene County, TN. To NANCY (**CARTER**).
- II. HENRY PRATT is named on the 1830 Census of Monroe County, TN.
- III. HENRY PRATT is named as participating in the Cherokee Land Lottery in 1832 with his in-laws, the CARTERS.
- IV. HENRY PRATT is named as a trustee to a deed for the Ebenezer Camp Ground in Monroe Co, TN, on Oct 2, 1838 with the following, JOHN KEY, LEWIS CARTER, JOHN L. McKENZIE, JACOB C. BROWN, JOSEPH FORSHEE, GEORGE SELVIDGE, BENJAMIN PARKER, and LEWIS PARKS. (LEWIS CARTER an in-law).
- V. HENRY PRATT is named on the 1840 Washington Co, MO census.

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Point 11. Another possibility exists concerning the confusion of the (John) Henry Pratt name. I never thought of this before but could Sarah A. that married this Blanton actually be the daughter of a JOHN PRATT who was an old honored citizen of Tennessee? In other words, she is not Henry Pratt's daughter?

In the 1850 Census of Tennessee, we find two JOHN PRATT's with daughters named Sarah.

- John Pratt 49, Surfany 55, Nancy 22, [Sarah 21](#), Lucy 19, John H. 17, William J. 15, James T. 12 with the father born in VA and they are in Greene County.
- John Pratt 49, Mary 47, John 19, James 15, [Sarah 12](#), Nancy 10, Martha 6, Mary 14, with the father born in VA and they are in Knox County.
- Nancy Pratt, 41, Mary M. 21, Maluna S. 18, Andrew M. 16, [Sarah J. 15](#), Oma S. 10/12 born in TN and they are in Greene County.

In the 1850 Census of Crawford County, MO we find a JOHN PRATT with a wife and a daughter named Sarah.

- John Pratt 28 from OHIO, Sarah 35, Indiana, [Sarah 1](#), Benjamin 5, Phebe 3/12.

The problem with these Pratt's is that none of them matches the age of Sarah Ann Pratt¹⁸⁷ who married John A. Blanton. However, this doesn't mean I am wrong, it just means maybe I don't have the right John Pratt family.

I would guess that since she was underage when she married, they left the county and eloped to a neighboring county. This would be Franklin, Crawford, Dent, Jefferson, and they do not show up in any of those. I even checked St. Louis Marriages.

Conclusion: If it weren't for the Administrator's Bond¹⁸⁸ naming Nancy (**CARTER**)'s heirs, I wouldn't believe that Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) was her daughter.

But the bond states "*Sarah A. Blanton wife of John A. Blanton*", which in my opinion is conclusive, that she was Henry Pratt's daughter.

Point 12. The name John Henry is never repeated in the 8 generation of family names in both the Pratts and Blantons. John is not a strong name in the Pratt Descendancy line.

However, Joshua, Abner, Absalom and Ezekiel Blanton's father was named John Blanton Jr. Any reference below to a child named John in the Blanton family is named after *their* father or grandfather, John Blanton Sr.

¹⁸⁷ Date from the 1840 census states she was 5-10 years old. Date from the 1850 census states she was 14 years old. Date from the 1860 census states she was 26 years old. Date from the 1870 census states she was 35 years old. Date from the 1880 census states she was 46 years old. Since the 1860 census was taken on 8 August 1860 and she is 26 then, and in the 1870 census taken on 11 April 1870 she is 35, and in the 1880 census she is 46 taken on 1 June 1880, then this puts her birth date between, April 11, 1834 and June 1, 1834.

¹⁸⁸ BOND: Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton, Administrator's Bond, Washington Co., MO., 14 Jan 1876

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Cynthia (PRATT)'s & Absalom Blanton's children and grandchildren

James married Margaret Green (**GOFORTH**): Green C.

Elizabeth married John D. Allen Sr.: Eliza, Catherine, **John D.**, Elizabeth, Mary, and **Henry**.

Alexander married Nancy Maria (**PRATT**): Catherine, Alexander, Absalom, Augustus, Nancy Maria, Isabelle, Louisa, Susan, Sarah F. and Benjamin F.

Mary Caroline married John Absalom Pratt: Nancy C., Malinda Jane, Mary F., **Henry** Absalom, Alexander, James A., Matilda Ellen, **John** Absalom, Elizabeth.

Elbert Sevier married Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**): Susan Jane, Absalom, Nancy, Mary Ellen, Sarah Ann, Martin Van Buren, Delila Catherine, Elbert Sevier, Lucy Adeline.

John Allen married Margaret Serice (**BLANTON**): Cynthia A., Nancy C., Christian L., Austin, **John** E., Charles H. and William Joshua.

Henry Hubert married Matilda Jane (**PRATT**): **Henry** W., James, Wesley Valentine, Jesse Van Buren, Wiley, Charles Edward, and William.

William Wesley married Mary Ann (**BLANTON**): Charles W., Sarah Ann, Catherine Jane "Jennie", Luther "Joker", Robert Lee, and Bethany.

Martin Van Buren: not believed married.

Out of 55 children and grandchildren, not one is named JOHN HENRY. In fact if you noticed, 2 of the Blanton's that married Pratts, didn't name any of their children John or Henry.

All names named John or Henry in first or middle names.

Total known first or middle names = 88

Percentage of children named John Henry = 0%

Percentage of children named Henry = 4% after Henry Pratt

Percentage of children named John = 4% after John Blanton, Jr.

Conclusion: With 4 marriages to 3 Pratt daughters and 1 Pratt son, out of 47 grandchildren not one daughter or son of Henry Pratt names their children John Henry.

However, Henry is repeated 4 times.

Therefore, the Pratt children's father was not John Henry Pratt but Henry Pratt.

Let's take a look at the Pratt children.

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Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt's children and grandchildren

Susan A. married Henry H. Hansel: **John** W., Susan Jane, **Henry** H., Mary E., Benjamin Walter, Beverly, Lawrence A., and Sterling Price.

James married Catherine (**Kimberlin**): Jacob **Henry**, Sarah Frances, Rinard A., and Nancy Young.

Lorenda married 1st Samuel Campbell: James H., Nancy C., Mary E., Sarah J., David A., Andrew Jackson and Mary C.

Lorenda married 2nd Ira S. Hull: Minerva F.

*Nancy Maria married Alexander Blanton Sr.: Catherine J., Alexander A., Absalom B., Augustus, Nancy Maria, Isabelle, Louisa, Susan, Sarah F. and Benjamin Franklin.

Alexander R. married 1st Mary (**Kimberlin**): Mary Ellen, Michael, Stonewall Jackson, Frances Minerva, Polina, **Henry** Winslow, Rhinehart and Minnie.

Alexander R. married 2nd Mrs. Catherine Adaline Dugan: Carac Frances and Cleveland.

*John Absalom Sr. married Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**Blanton**): Nancy C., Malinda Jane, Mary F., **Henry** Absalom, Alexander, James A., Matilda Ellen, **John** Absalom, Elizabeth.

Sarah Ann married John Anderson Blanton: Charles **Henry**, Alexander Anderson, Emily Jane, Susan Lillian, Sarah Ann "Sally", William, Virginia Dare, Bethany "Thane", **John** Wesley "Jack", Nancy "Nannie", James Edward, Phoebe A., Frederick "Fred", and Katherine "Katie".

*Mary Elizabeth married Elbert Sevier Blanton: Susan Jane, Absalom, Nancy Caroline, Mary Ellen, Sarah Ann, Martin Van Buren, Delilah Catherine, Elbert Sevier Jr., and Lucy Adeline.

*Matilda Jane married Henry Hubert Blanton: Henry W.A., James, Wesley Valentine "Val", Jesse Van Buren, Wiley, Charles Edward "Eddy", and William.

*Already used in the Blanton comparison.

Out of 46 children and grandchildren, (not used in the Blanton chart) not one is named JOHN HENRY. In fact if you noticed, 2 of the Pratts that married Blantons, didn't name any of their children John or Henry.

All names named John or Henry in first or middle names.

Total known first or middle names = 63

Percentage of children named John Henry = 0%

Percentage of children named Henry = 6% after Henry Pratt

Percentage of children named John = 3% after John Blanton Sr.

Conclusion: With 5 marriages to 4 Blanton sons and 1 Blanton daughter, out of 42 grandchildren not one daughter or son of Henry Pratt names their children John Henry.

However, Henry is repeated 3 times.

Therefore, the Pratt children's father was not John Henry Pratt but Henry Pratt.

You can derive only one conclusion from the above comparisons...Henry Pratt's name was not important to the children and grandchildren that knew him. It is a white man's custom to honor the ancestor by naming descendants with old family names.

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The Cherokees named their children in response to physical, emotional or spiritual traits or attributes they received from their Heavenly Father through blessings.

As a Cherokee, Henry Pratt would not have placed such importance on his name and therefore would not have asked his children to continue a white man's tradition.

To Henry Pratt, a Cherokee, there would be no honor in having his descendants named after his white man's name.

Point 13. Another possibility for the error... when the reporter was collecting information about Sarah Ann's family, they could have given him false information to throw him off the track.

This would be in harmony with the fear factor previously mentioned.

Most Goodspeed's reports named both the parents when reporting on an individual. But, Sarah's mother, Nancy was omitted. Both Henry and Nancy were deceased by 1888 so both should have been reported in the article.

In another words, if they told the reporter, John Pratt, and Sarah knowing his name was Henry not John, for whatever reason maybe the fear factor, reported this as an intentional deception and misrepresentation.

Point 14. The language used to report "John Pratt an old honored citizen of Tennessee" is not in harmony with the way a daughter would speak of her father.

This sounds like Sarah Ann was not the one reporting this information. She would have used both parents' name because they both were deceased and from Tennessee.

Also, she would **not** have referred to him as "an old honored citizen of Tennessee" because she knew he was not a citizen of Tennessee and the government had forced their family from Tennessee and stole any honor they may have had.

Point 15. Cherokees did not use 3 English names. It was customary to name yourself with two names when taking white man names. Therefore, he would not have taken John Henry Pratt but only two names Henry Pratt. White men who married Indian woman named their children with 3 names and white woman who married Indian men named their children with 3 names.

That is why the children of Henry & Nancy have three names because Nancy was a white woman. The reverse is true of Absalom and Cynthia's children because Absalom was a white man.

I hope these 15 points of reference are able to sway and change some of the false errors concerning (John) Henry Pratt. When researchers post false or unproven data, this makes all those who repeat those errors accomplices.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

By *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* © 2003 revised 2013 3rd Edition

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NAME

If we follow the premise that he was a (John) Henry Pratt then why has research stopped at the point of the marriage in Greene Co., TN and **no one** has been able to advance the line past (John) Henry Pratt in the past 35 years?

Because, none of the John Pratts in Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia or South Carolina has panned out to be our Henry Pratt.

I have checked on John Pratts in those states and they are not the same person and they do not fit the criteria.

However, he is HENRY PRATT, and there are numerous HENRY Pratt's in the region of Washington and Greene County, Tennessee and North Carolina where the research work has stalled.

Henry Pratt, a Cherokee picked the name Pratt, and there were many Pratt names to choose from in the Greene County area. It was a common name.

Ask any researcher why they think he is (JOHN) HENRY PRATT and you can trace the source back to the Goodspeed's article.

It would also explain, why the Blantons were the only ones to think that HENRY PRATT was a JOHN. That article is the source of all the misinformation.

None of the Pratt "old timers" or researchers agreed with that article.

In all of the interviews I have conducted with Pratt descendants and related family lines in the last 30 years, never once have they referred to him or ever heard anyone refer to him as (John) Henry Pratt. Only the Blantons have postulated that fabrication.

If I find any evidence to the contrary, I will be the first to exclaim the information to the world.

Until I can find something, or someone else offers documental proof of a JOHN HENRY PRATT, he is **HENRY PRATT** and maybe a junior without the title.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003

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WHAT DO I THINK?

I think someone who did not know the Pratt family intimately, gave the information to the reporter.

I don't think Sarah Ann would speak of her father, as "an old honored citizen" when she knows he never was "honored" by white men or a citizen of the United States.

She would not speak of him in the present tense knowing he had passed away in the last 40+ years. Also she would have *included* her mother in the biographical sketch.

But, if whoever gave that information was afraid of the government and didn't want them finding out who they were, or where they lived, then the misinformation was intentional and designed to mislead.

The Joshua Blanton family was not familiar with Henry Pratt. Their son, John married Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) long after Henry Pratt had passed away.

John and Sarah A. (**PRATT**) Blanton's own daughter, Nancy (**BLANTON**) Hulseley who became the Blanton family historian never heard of Henry Pratt mentioned when she was growing up let alone a (John) Henry Pratt.

The name John is a strong Blanton name and someone became confused and commingled John and Henry and attached them to Henry Pratt.

Consequently, the Joshua Blanton family probably never did know much about the Pratts.

To my fellow researchers, cease and desist calling him (John) Henry Pratt. Without documental evidence, the credibility and reliability of your research work will be repudiated.

Henry Pratt is Henry Pratt and until evidence surfaces to prove otherwise, he will always be Henry Pratt, patriarch of the Missouri Pratts.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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THE PRE-EMPTION ACT OF 1841

A serious problem developed with the influx of squatters into the state of Missouri. After a squatter would develop and improve a piece of property, the State would sell their land that had been improved to the highest bidder or through some land legislation.

Sometimes the squatter did not have enough money to purchase the property and would be forced off the land without compensation for the improvements they had performed.

In 1841, Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri co-sponsored a bill that basically stated the squatter could homestead up to 160 acres of land and purchase the land for \$1.25 per acre.

This bill became the Pre-emption Act of 1841, which was passed on 4 September 1841¹⁸⁹.

At such a reasonable price as \$1.25 per acre, why didn't Henry Pratt buy at least 40 acres for a homestead? How about 20 acres? 10?

By now you have probably become a believer and your answer would be; because he was an Indian and Indians were not allowed to own land. And you would be right.

So consequently, Henry Pratt did not buy any land in Missouri. And why should he?

To the Cherokees, all the people of the tribe jointly owned the land and why should he pay white men for land that was his in the first place?

He didn't sell any tribal homeland to the whites. The land of his grandfathers had belonged to the Cherokee people long before any white men appeared.

Therefore, it was unreasonable and illogical that he should have to pay for land that was rightly his by birthright.

THE BABY IS BORN

On 20 October 1842, the last of Henry's children, Matilda Jane (**PRATT**)¹⁹⁰ was born at Hamilton Hollow. There was a 4 to 6 year gap between Mary Elizabeth (1939) and Matilda Jane.

Did Henry live to see his youngest daughter born? Unknown.

Did he live to see any of them get married? Unknown

Most likely he witnessed Susan's marriage when she married Henry H. Hansell in 1840/1841. The next marriages were James in 1847/1848, Lorenda in 1848 and Nancy Mariah in 1849, all the rest were married after the 1850 census after he died.

¹⁸⁹ "Documents of American History to 1898", Vol 1, by Henry Steel Commager (1973) Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ, page 291-292.

¹⁹⁰ Birth: Date from 1850 census states she was born 1842. Date from 1860 census states she was born 1843. Date from 1870 census states she was born 1843. Date from 1880 census states she was born 1840. Therefore she was born 1840/1843.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

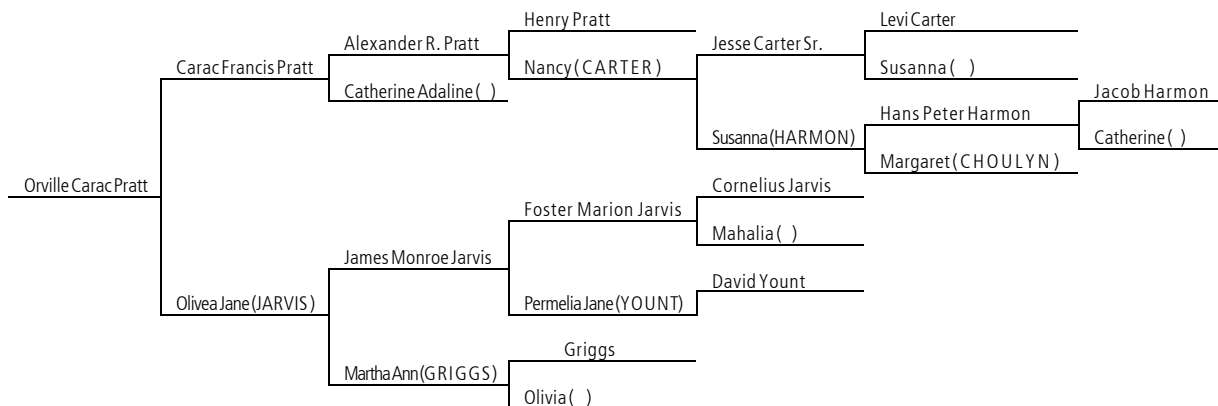
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THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF HENRY PRATT

Sometime between 1841 with the conception of his youngest daughter, Matilda and 1850, where he does not appear in the census with his family, Henry Pratt disappears, presumed dead.

One piece of interesting speculation came from his grandson, Carac Francis Pratt.

In the 1980's I found Orville Carac Pratt in Bethalto, IL and visited with him. Orville is the son of Carac Francis Pratt, born 13 Oct 1888 and died 9 Feb 1975, who is the son of Alexander Pratt, son of Henry Pratt. Orville Carac Pratt related the following information about Alexander Pratt.



Orville said his father Carac told him that Alexander was a big man 6' 4" tall and weighed about 240lbs. He was a blacksmith, auctioneer, and ran a threshing separator rig for a while. He had black hair and blue eyes and had a dark complexion.

Carac Francis made railroad ties and probably learned this from his father, Alex. Carac also told him his Dad, Alex made the gold rush to California in 1849.

If Alex made the gold rush in 1849 maybe that's where his father, Henry Pratt died. Maybe his dad went with him to California because **Alex was only 18 years old in 1849**.

Alexander shows up in the 1850 census in Crawford Co., MO with his mother and siblings... but not his dad. Maybe James, Alex and Henry with others made the trip to California.

No way to know for sure, but it seems highly unlikely Alexander would go alone to the gold fields of California without his father or maybe some other relatives.

The reason I mention this story is in hope that some other researcher had heard the story and could enhance with further knowledge and truth.

Nevertheless, Henry Pratt dies between 1841/1850, because he does not show up in the 1850 census records.

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CEMETERIES

The Cherokee custom of burial was to bury in a coffin, on a hillside, facing east.¹⁹¹ They dressed the deceased in his best clothes; family and friends would attend and pay their respects. They would also bury artifacts with the deceased, like favorite items, knives, ornaments and decorations out of respect.

They were buried within 2 or 3 days and rocks or jars with personal items usually marked the gravesite. Headstones were a white man's custom.

Hamilton and Blanton cemeteries are both on high hills across from each other.

This is where I feel Henry Pratt and most of his family and the Blanton families are buried.

One summer day, as I climbed the hill to Hamilton Cemetery I had a somber feeling come over me. I don't recall any headstones but the ground had depressions every few feet.

Right next to the cemetery, was an old wagon-wheel worn road. These roads were called county roads and went from farm to farm. The old wagon wheels had made about a 4 to 5 inch depression in the dirt indicating heavy use. Over these country roads, family, friends, visitors and salesmen with pots and pans and other necessities brought news of current events to these isolated communities.

As I looked upon the worn tracks, I wondered who had been the last to be interred in these cemeteries. In my mind's eye, I could almost see neighbors, friends and relatives gathering around, dressed in black, the women with their heads covered, gently wiping away the tears. I could almost hear them signing "Rock of Ages" with the music echoing throughout the hills.

Some burial places had rocks in formation and some had old glass mason jars. In some of the jars you could see old worn items not quite identifiable but you knew they were important to the people who had put them there. The wagon road went past the cemetery and disappeared on down the hill, metaphorically symbolizing the lives, which passed through time and moved on.

As I listened quietly, I heard the wind gently blowing in the trees of which some were probably saplings 100 years ago, and wondered if Henry, Nancy, Absalom, Cynthia, Alexander and all the others I have grown to love, stood in this very same spot.

As I turned to leave, a sense of sadness gripped my heart and I knew I had been born a century too late. I would have enjoyed living in those times fellowshiping with my ancestors.

But, I realize, the very people we live with today, are of equal caliber and I wonder if my great grandchildren will envy me because I knew and lived with their ancestors.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

¹⁹¹ "Indians of Southeastern United States", by John R. Swanton (1946) Smithsonian Institution Press, page 724.

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NANCY MOVES TO CRAWFORD COUNTY

Over the next 6 years after the birth of his youngest child Matilda, Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt or widow Nancy, moved between 1842 and 1848, from Richwoods Township to Johnson Township, Washington Co., MO. This is based on the marriages of their children.

Sometime between 1848/1850 widow Nancy moves the family to Crawford Co., MO.

Their oldest daughter, Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) married Henry Hansell from North Carolina sometime between 1841/1842 and was living over by the New Rock Church near Carter Creek.¹⁹²

Next door to Nancy and the children in the Crawford County census is Henry & Susan (**PRATT**) Hansell family.

CENSUS: 1850 District #24, Crawford County, MO. Page 244, House 767:					
Surname	Given	Age	Sex	Birth state	
PRATT,	N	48	F	Tenn	(Nancy)
	E.	18	M	"	(Alexander R.)
	S. A.	14	M	"	(Sarah Ann)
	J. A.	12	F	"	(John Absalom)
	M. E.	11	F	"	(Mary Elizabeth)
	M. J.	8	F	Mo	(Matilda Jane)

Let's take a look at this census in detail.

On the census forms after 1850, there are a great many questions that are supposed to be asked of the residents.

The above are obvious but the census taker unfortunately only put initials into the records and not the full names of the individuals.

Nancy stated that she was a widow and she could not read or write. Henry Hansell her son-in-law (a white man) could read and write. She did not own any property or real estate.

There is a column, which asks, Color: white, black or mulatto. The census taker did not mark any of the pages under that column. Therefore, it is unknown as to the race of the residents who were in the 1850 Crawford Co. census. Maybe this omission was per the request of the residents... the fear factor.

¹⁹² More detail about the children's marriages in the Descendant Section.

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By the 1850 census, some of Nancy's children were already married.

- Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) married Henry Hansell about 1841/1842.
- James Pratt married Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) about 1847/1849.
- Lorenda (**PRATT**) married Samuel Campbell 16 March 1848.
- Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) married Alexander A. Blanton Sr. 14 October 1849.

James & Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt were living in Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO by the 1850 census close to *her* family, Rinard E. & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberling.

We have not been able to locate Samuel & Lorenda (**PRATT**) Campbell family in the 1850 census. However they settled in Pulaski Co., MO by 1860.

Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) and Alexander A. Blanton Sr. were also living in Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO next to his Blanton relatives.

It appears widow Nancy Pratt moved into Crawford County to be near her daughter Susan who had married Henry Hansell. By 1850 the Hansell's had 4 maybe 5 children and I'm sure Susan had her hands full and really appreciated her mother's help with the family.

All of Nancy's other children were newlyweds and did not have a large family; they remained close by in Johnson Twsp., Washington County, MO. (except Lorenda)

ABRAHAM ABSALOM AND CYNTHIA ANN (PRATT) BLANTON

In the 1850 census of Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO, Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton were living in close proximity to their sons and daughter's families.

As was previously mentioned, Absalom bought 160 acres in Hamilton Hollow in 1849 and moved there and built that large 3 story, 13-room mansion.

Absalom through his business dealings was able to acquire enough capital to establish several ore mines as was stated in the article by Jo Schafer.

Once again just like Tennessee, the Blantons prospered and the Pratts with the loss of Henry, were impoverished.

Absalom & Cynthia could not read & write. The census taker, remiss in his duty, failed to record the land or property value except I noticed, when he was taking the census of known white men, he recorded their land values.

Maybe the Blantons did want him to know their business and failed to give him the information. Remember the fear factor?

I am more inclined to believe that even in this late time period 1850/1870's racial prejudice still played an important role in discrimination.

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CYNTHIA (PRATT), CHEROKEE PRINCESS

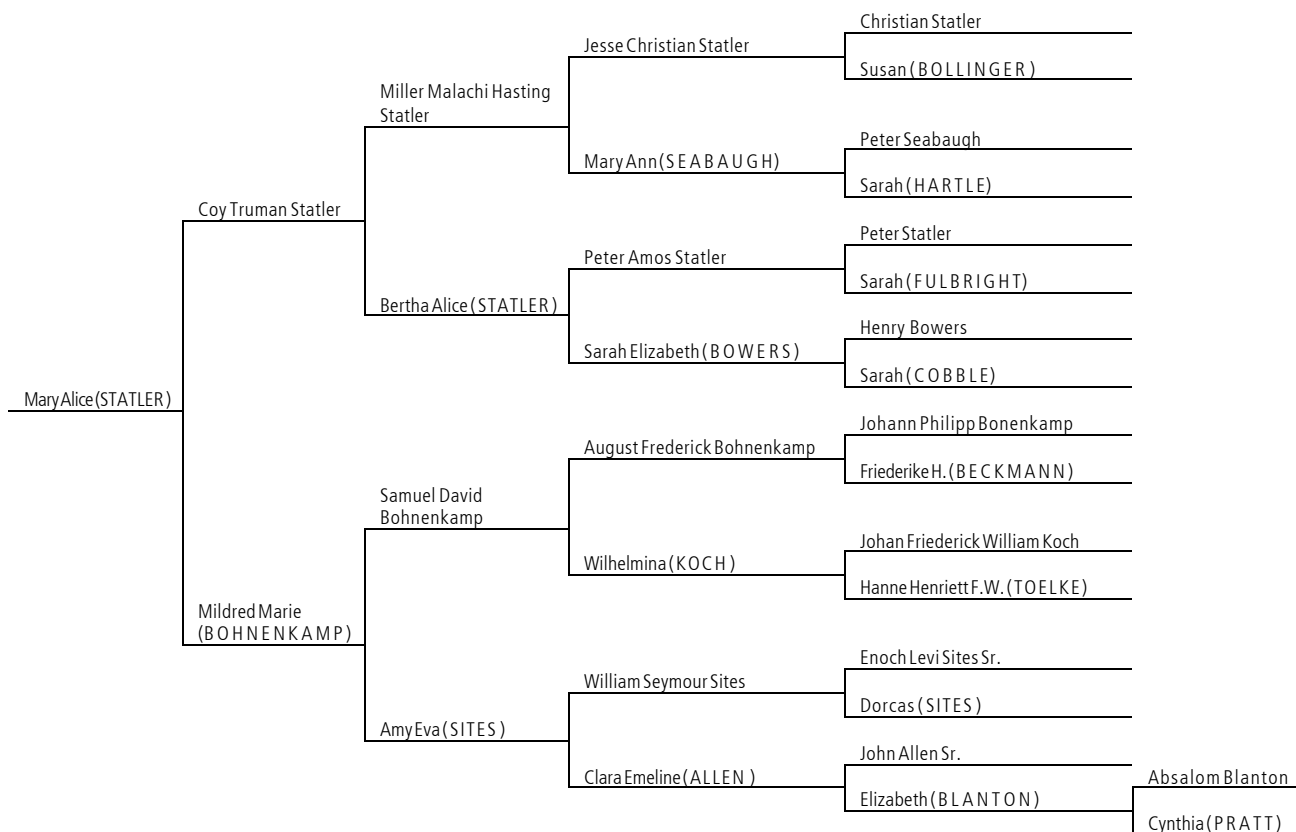
In the book, "Historic Greene County, Tennessee and its People 1783-1992"¹⁹³, on page 29, Mary Alice (STATLER) Blaylock wrote the following under the heading BOWERS-ALLEN:

"On my maternal side, we had John Allen, born about 1814 in the State of New York, who married Elizabeth (BLANTON), who was born between 1819 and 1826 in Greene County, Tennessee, daughter of Absalom Blanton and Cynthia Ann (PRATT) Blanton. Cynthia is supposed to have been an Indian princess. Does anyone know who her parents might have been in Greene County?"

I contacted Mary Alice Blaylock in Missouri (2003) and asked her concerning this statement.

She told me that her Sites, Allen and Blanton line have passed down the story that Cynthia (PRATT) was a Cherokee princess. **In those families, this is common knowledge.**

She stated her grandmother, Amy Eva (SITES) Bohnenkamp looked like an Indian with long, coal black hair and her relatives always acknowledged her Indian ancestry.



Another factor that surfaces is that Cynthia's middle name was Ann. This is the only source I have been able to find concerning the middle name. No census, legal documents or other sources have been found to verify her middle name.

¹⁹³ Historic Greene County, Tennessee and its People 1783-1992, by Greene County History Book Committee, Walsworth Publishing (1992), page 29.

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The main concern for the reader is. if Cynthia (**PRATT**) was a Cherokee princess, then her Father was a Cherokee Chief. This means her brother, Henry Pratt was the son of a Cherokee Chief and possibly in line for the position had he been allowed to stay in Tennessee.

If Cynthia and Henry were children of a Cherokee Chief and most of the chief's were chosen from the Wolf Clan, then in all probability they were of the Wolf clan.

Children of the Wolf Clan were trained from their youth to exhibit strong leadership qualities. These children were prepared to lead the tribe in matters of wisdom, strength and courage. They were to be independent, visionary, and decisive in all matters pertaining to tribal customs, laws and justice.

Cherokee custom for choosing Chiefs was to listen to the various candidates and vote. The authority of the Chiefs was elective and he or she as chief of the tribe were looked upon more as a counselor and a leader to be followed in wisdom.

There were many chiefs; peace chiefs and war chiefs. And since there were many clans, each clan had a chief representative of that clan.

His father a Cherokee chief, Henry was trained from birth to assume leadership responsibilities. He was taught to be self-sufficient and to think independently regardless of current events or political persuasions.

This spirit of entrepreneurial independence has served his descendants for 7 generations.

His son, Alexander was self-employed as a woodsman and auctioneer.

Alex's son Henry Winslow Pratt was a woodsman.

Winslow's son, Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt was a woodsman and a masonry contractor.

Lum's sons; Floyd Theodore Pratt owned an independent insurance agency; Roy Lee Pratt and James Henry Pratt owned their own trucking companies.

Floyd's son, Floyd Thomas Pratt owned and operated an insurance agency, a landscaping service, a janitorial service and a genealogical publishing company. Tom's cousins, children of James Henry Pratt; Randall James Pratt owns a small engine repair, his sister; Sheryl Rue (**PRATT**) Offutt owns a moving and storage facility.

Tom's son, Christopher Shawn Pratt owns and operates a talent agency, movie production and various other enterprises in California.

This streak of independent entrepreneurship cannot be dismissed as coincidence. The Pratts come from a long line of independent leaders...who knows for how many thousands of years. This leadership quality is an inheritable character trait from our Cherokee ancestry.

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Concerning the validity of this claim that Cynthia (**PRATT**) was a Cherokee Princess¹⁹⁴, let's take a look at her daughter, Elizabeth (**BLANTON**) Allen. Elizabeth was the oldest daughter of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton. As the oldest daughter she was privy to information that the younger siblings were not.

Young parents share information with their older children but when the parents get older and have more children, they tend to economize and share less information with the younger children. This is because they get tired, forget or assume it's common knowledge.

Therefore, Elizabeth, as the oldest daughter, knowing about her mother's heritage is logical. Also, Cynthia not sharing that information with other family members is logical.

Another important factor of substantial significance is that Cynthia (**PRATT**) as a Cherokee Princess would not have been a half-blood. **Cherokee princesses were full-blooded.**

What would it benefit Elizabeth to fabricate a story about her mother being a Cherokee princess? None. If we were all Cherokees there might be honor in this claim. But as Cherokee descendants living in a white man's world, there is no honor to be gained.

Claiming to have native ancestry was looked down upon in white society. Therefore, back in the 19th century, keeping this information secret insured a better opportunity for your children to succeed in the white man's world.

So, I am inclined to believe the Sites, Allens and Blantons that Cynthia (**PRATT**) was a Cherokee princess. It's logical and nothing is gained by a fabrication of this magnitude.

To a non-descendant of the Pratts, this disclosure is of little significance. To a descendant, this revelation helps and supports the Pratt descendant's claim of native ancestry.

Marrying a Cherokee princess would help explain why Absalom does not show up in the 1830 census of Greene Co., TN or the 1840 census of Franklin Co., MO even though evidence suggests he was in those areas at that time. Seeking to protect his wife from men who would do her harm, after all a Cherokee princess could command quite a ransom, Absalom evaded the authorities in order to protect his distinguished wife and children.

After a long and eventful life, between the 1850 Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO. census of 30 Oct 1850 and before 21 Mar 1852¹⁹⁵, when Absalom married widow Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt, Princess Cynthia died.

Cynthia is probably buried in the Blanton Cemetery at Hamilton Hollow.

¹⁹⁴ The word Princess is an English label and Cynthia was probably called an equivalent in the Cherokee language. She was the daughter of a Chief and probably told her children she was a Princess so they could understand her position in the tribe.

¹⁹⁵ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, Book "A" Page 208

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ABSALOM BLANTON AND WIDOW NANCY (CARTER) PRATT

What peculiar circumstances would entice the widower and the widow of a brother and sister to marry?

Absalom and Nancy were 50 years of age and I surmise that there were several factors involved in this decision to marry.

- Companionship – loneliness is a debilitating factor. However, they were both living with children so I don't think they were lonely, unless they needed peer companionship.
- Financial stability – prosperity especially at an older age is good. Absalom was quite wealthy, buying and selling property up until his death.
- Friendship – 11 years of close association in Missouri. Their close association began in Washington County. It does not appear they associated with each other's families in Tennessee.
- Tribal custom – their children were of the same tribe or race. Probably the most reasonable reason for a close association was their spouse's Cherokee heritage.

The marriage took place in Crawford County and shortly after that, Nancy and children moved to the mansion house at Hamilton Hollow.

At the mansion after the marriage in 1852 the following children were still living at home:

1. Elbert Sevier "Alford" Blanton age 21 won't be married to Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**) until 1853.
2. Alexander R. Pratt age 20 won't be married to Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) until 1856.
3. John Allen Blanton age 19 won't be married to Margaret Serice (**BLANTON**) until 1853/1854.
4. Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) age 17 won't be married to John Absalom Pratt until 1853.
5. Henry H. Blanton age 15 won't be married to Matilda Jane (**PRATT**) until 1857.
6. John Absalom Pratt age 16 won't be married to Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) until 1853.
7. William Wesley Blanton age 13 won't be married to Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) until 1867.
8. Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**) age 14 won't be married to Elbert Sevier "Alford" Blanton until 1853.
9. Martin Van Buren Blanton age 11 died between 1860/1870 censuses.
10. Matilda Jane (**PRATT**) age 10 won't be married to Henry Hubert Blanton until 1857.

This was quite a household of people. Absalom needed a large mansion just to house these children. Remember, 3 stories, 13 rooms?

Why would Absalom and Nancy allow their children to marry their first cousins?

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I mentioned earlier the Cherokee people could marry within the tribe but not within the same clan.

Therefore, it looks like they were of the same tribe but of different clans.

Otherwise, there surely would have been objections raised by their parents to these marriages.

Also, it appears living in close proximity to each other sparked these inter-marriages.

However, this reasoning even at that time and place in antiquity was not normal or customary to marry your first cousin.

Absalom must have made widow Pratt an attractive offer of stability and financial prosperity to align these two houses into one.

Nevertheless, having close family ties to the Cherokee tribes played an important reason for this decision.

I imagine each household discussed at great length with their children this prospective union and only by consensus was this marriage (Absalom & Nancy) allowed to take place.

This indifference to relationships played an important role in the future marriages of the children.

In any case, the marriage took place binding these two families together forever.

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JESSE CARTER OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

After Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt were forced out of Monroe Co., TN in September 1838, her parents; Jesse Sr. & Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter were living in Monroe Co., TN.¹⁹⁶

Sometime between 1840 and 1848, Jesse Carter and family moved into McMinn Co., TN. They moved into fertile and prime farm country just like the Blantons had done as soon as the Cherokees were removed from Monroe County.

Jesse's homestead was located on Big Mouse Creek, which he donated one acre to build a Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1848.¹⁹⁷

Sons, Henderson and James had already moved to McMinn County before 1850 and Levi had moved to Bradley Co. before 1850. John had moved to Monroe County, before 1850.

In August 1849¹⁹⁸, Jesse Carter Sr. died in McMinn Co., TN. McMinn County is where his estate was settled. There are several entries referencing his estate and sale of items.

I have previously referenced the settlement where he leaves an inheritance to his children but fails to acknowledge the three that married Indians.

Missing from the list is Susannah (**CARTER**) who married Levi Presley and Jesse Carter Jr. who married Catherine (**PRESLEY**) and Nancy (**CARTER**) who married Henry Pratt.

Also on 25 Jan 1851¹⁹⁹ at the sale of the estate items, only one of these children shows up to purchase from their father's estate as follows:

Jesse Carter deceased *An account of sale of the personal property of the estate of Jesse Carter decd at his late residence in McMinn County after having advertised according to law: John Neal one iron wedge 41cts, John D. Holcum one dinner pot 59 cts, John Neal one pair of gears \$2.00, **Susan Carter** one pair of gears 50 cts, John Neal one ox yoke 41 cts, Joseph Neal one clivice 35 cts, William Rutherford 21 cts, **Henderson Carter** set hip-straps \$1.29, William Browder one hip-straps 15 cts, Philip Fry one set brick bands \$2.50, William Rutherford one grindstone \$3, Edwin Ivy one grind-stone 12 1/2 cts, **Susan Carter** one felling axe 25 cts, **Susan Carter** one coffee mill 12 1/2 cts, **Henderson Carter** one hog shed 50 cts, Philip Coats two meal sacks 26 cts, **Susan Carter** 3 meal sacks 25 cts, **Peter Carter** one pair steelyard \$2, **Margaret Trim** one mans saddle \$8,50, **James Carter** one stan lard \$3.57, J.W. Orr one gaither line 41 1/2 cts, John Casady one sickle 10 cts, **Margaret Trim** one shoval plow 55 cts, **John Carter** one bulltongue plow and one shoval plow 50 cts. William Wallace one barshears plow \$1.31, David D. Dean one hand saw 75 cts, John D. Holcom one drawing knife 25 cts, Abraham Winkle one frow 50 cts, J.D. Holcom one cow bell & collar 93 cts,*

¹⁹⁶ Census: 1840 Monroe Co., TN., page 200.

¹⁹⁷ Deed: McMinn Co., TN Deeds 1820/1880, Boyer (1986) Book "J", page 68

¹⁹⁸ Date from the book, "Family History of Levi Carter Descendants and Allied Families" by Elizabeth Carter Schnegelberger (1991) Mound City, MO., page 17.

¹⁹⁹ Court Records: McMinn Co., TN, 25 Jan 1851

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*John Cassada one bell & collar 10 cts, J.D. Holcom 2 augers 40 cts, William Cate one auger and gemblet 63 cts, William Bowden one band irons \$1.01, John Neal 2 double-trees 36 cts, **Peter Carter** 2 couding pioes 35 cts,*

***Margaret Trim** one trough soap 61 1/4 cts, **James Carter** one ditto 37 1/2 cts, **Henderson Carter** one tub of soap and grease 50 cts, **Jesse Carter** 100 lbs pork \$3.85, **Margaret Trim** 100 lbs pork \$3.99, **Henderson Carter** 100 lbs pork \$3.99, **Peter Carter** 100 lbs pork \$4.00, Randolph R. Shipley 100 lbs pork \$4.00, **Henderson Carter** 100 lbs pork \$3.99, Randolph R. Shipley 176 lbs \$6.16, Philip Coal hand hammer 41 1/2 cts, **James Carter** one bedstead 10 cts, S.J. Bowen one side sole leather \$1.50, **Susan Carter** one bunch wool rolls 25 cts, **S. Carter** bedstead & furniture \$1.00, **Susan Carter** bunch seed cotton 25 cts, **John Carter** 2 horse plows \$5.95, William Wallace one log chain \$2.50, John A. Bowen stretcher & singleline \$1.50, Jacob Williams one loom \$1.06 1/4, **Margaret Trim** scythe & cradle \$1.50, **James Carter** scythe & cradle \$1.51, **Peter Carter** one mowing scythe whitstone and stake 50 cts., R.R. Shipley one hatchet \$1.10, one hay fork H.B. Grywood ? **James Carter** one cutting bow & knife 81 cts, one green hide J. H. Meoy \$3.12, one bridel John Casody \$1.10, one bridel **Susan Carter** 12 1/2 cts, one currecomb D.D. Deary 6 1/2 cts, 11 1/2 buschels of corn A.H. Meavy \$9.79, 6 bushel of wheat A.J. Shelton \$4.14,*

***Monroe County:** 201 bushels of corn, 147 dozen of oats, 1 fat hog and some smith tools (claims good)-----1 note on Fleming Thompson and D. H. Jamison \$4.00 due 15th November 1849, Hiel Buttrand \$2.00, one note on Noah Buttrand \$1.50, due 15th November 1849, **Henderson Carter** (claims btful) one note on D.D. Liana \$3.50 due 29th June 1849, 1 note on Henry Galliam for 44.00 due November 1848, 1 note on John Bradon \$2.00 due 15th November 1868, 1 note on Joseph Thompson \$2.50 due 15th November 1848, 1 note on Dudley Fields \$1.50 due the 15th November 1849, 1 note on Thompson Shipley \$1.50 due 15th November 1849, 1 note on J.M. Collins \$3.50 due 15th November 1849, 1 note on Lewis Mars \$2.00 due 15th November 1849.*

*Total inventory sale \$415.57 1/2 cts, The foregoing is a full and perfect account of the sale of all the property of the estate of **Jesse Carter** decd directed by law to sold notes with good security was taken from the purchasers this twelve month after ? this the 25th January 1851. James Sewe II, Administrator of Jesse Carter decd.*

Almost three years after Jesse's death, someone in the family offers those three disinherited children some acreage in Monroe Co., TN. from their father's old homestead. I don't know if this was guilt or an afterthought or pressure from Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter, their mother, but each child is offered a portion.²⁰⁰

²⁰¹ Susan Presley of Hopkins Co., KY, wife of Levi Presley and heir of Jesse Carter, dec'd, late of McMinn Co., sold her portion to her brother, Lewis M. Carter.

²⁰⁰ I cannot find where Jesse Carter Jr. is offered a share.

²⁰¹ Deed: Monroe Co., TN, Book "O", Page 522, 23 Dec 1851

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Nancy (**CARTER**) Blanton's sale:

"I NANCY BLANTON of the County of Washington and the State of Missouri wife of ABSOLOM BLANTON, and heir at law of JESSE CARTER deceased, late of the County of McMinn and State of Tennessee, have this day bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey to JOHN CARTER and his heirs forever in consideration of the sum of eighty dollars to me paid all right title & interest of and to the tracts or parcel, of land of which the aforesaid JESSE CARTER died did seized and possessed, lying and situate in the county of Monroe and State of Tennessee. On and near the waters of Bat Creek in the second township²⁰², second range east of the meridian in the county last aforesaid, to have and to hold the same to the said JOHN CARTER, his heirs and assigns forever. I do further covenant and bind myself, my heirs and assigns and representatives to warrants and defend the title for said lands to the said JOHN CARTER his heirs and assigns forever against any claim to be made by me or through or under me, but no further. In testimony wherefore I hereunto set my hand and affirm my seal this 29th October 1853.

James M. Johnston

William M. McClung

Nancy Blanton²⁰³

her X mark

It appears she made the trip back to McMinn County to sell this property almost four years after her father died. She probably had a wonderful time visiting her mother, Susanna and the rest of her family.

Absalom, being a man of means had the funds to make the trip with her. Also, he probably visited old friends and family in Greene Co., TN.

As stated before, the inheritance in Jesse Carters estate was to be distributed equally among the children listed,²⁰⁴ deliberately deleting three children from Jesse Carter's inheritance.

Their association with Indian spouses, I feel was the reason the Carters failed to help the Presley and the Pratt families.

²⁰² Interesting to note, no section is listed in this deed.

²⁰³ Deed: Monroe Co, TN., Deed Book "O", Page 618, 29 Oct 1853

²⁰⁴ See page 32.

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THE 1850's

Over the next several years, by the 1860 census, all of Nancy's children were married and had left the mansion.

It is unclear if Absalom moved to Crawford Co., MO in the 1850's to live and moved back to Washington Co., MO by the 1860 census.

I think he just purchased land looking for new ore mines in an attempt to expand his mining operations.²⁰⁵

Since there were several mining operations in that part of the state, I'm sure the Pratts, Blantons and others in the area made their living working some of the Blanton mines.

Elbert Sevier "Alford" Blanton married Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**) on 24 Mar 1853 in Washington County and on the same day probably a double wedding, his sister, Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) married John Absalom Pratt on 24 Mar 1853.

John Allen Blanton married Margaret Serice (**BLANTON**) sometime around 1853/1854.

Alexander R. Pratt married Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) 28 Jun 1856 in Washington County.

Henry Hubert Blanton married Matilda Jane (**PRATT**) 5 Jan 1857 in Washington County.

This completes the marriage connection of the Blantons and the Pratts...almost.

James Pratt's widow, Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt married widower Alexander A. Blanton Sr. on 17 Oct 1875 in Crawford County after James' death (25 Jun 1874) at Anthonies Mill, Washington Co., MO.

By then Alexander Blanton's wife, Nancy Maria (**PRATT**), sister to James Pratt, had died on 27 Jan 1873.

Once again proving more inter-marriage among the tribe.

²⁰⁵ **Deed:** Washington Co., MO, Deed Book "H", Page 617, 15 Nov 1851: George T. & Nancy Jane Westover sell 40 acres for \$300: North half lot number 1 southwest quarter of Section 30 in Twsp 40 Range 1 west and North half of lot number 2 southwest quarter of Section 30 in Twsp 40 range 1 west containing 45 acres on 16 Nov 1851.
Deed: Crawford Co., MO., Deed Book G, Page 11, May 27, 1859: ABSALOM BLANTON buys 47 acres from JOHN WILEY PINNELL at one undivided one fourth part of the west fractional half of north east quarter of section No 35, in township 40, of range no 2 west.
Deed: Crawford Co, MO., Deed Book G, Page 12, June 1, 1859: ABSALOM BLANTON buys 47 acres from CALVIN V. LYNCH and wife MATILDA at west fractional half of the Northeast quarter of section number 35, in township no. 40, of range no.2 west.

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THE 1860 CENSUS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI

CENSUS: 1860 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Twsp, Rock Spring Post Office, taken on 25 Jul 1860, Page 463, House 882:					
Surname	Given	Age	Sex	Birth state	
BLANTON,	Absalom	55	M	KY	Farmer
	Nancy	56	F	TN	Keeps house
	William W.	21	M	MO	
	Martin	20	M	MO	

Next door to the Blantons were the families of Joshua & Martha "Patsy" (**DAVIS**) McIntosh, Henry & Matilda (**PRATT**) Blanton, Alexander & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt, Joshua & Bethanie (**HARMON**) Blanton, Elbert & Mary (**PRATT**) Blanton, Martha (**MARQUIS**) Goforth widow of Willoughby, Richard & Elizabeth (**JACKSON**) Marshall.

Absalom's value of real estate was \$500 and his personal property was \$300. None in the household could read or write.

877	867	Colbert Blanton	29	M
		Mary Blanton	20	F
		Shusan Blanton	5	F
		Absalom Blanton	3	M
		Mary C. Blanton	1/2	F
		Joshua Blanton	54	M
878	868	Bethany Blanton	50	F
		Wassah Blanton	21	M
		Mary Blanton	16	F
		Joshua Blanton	13	M
		Abt. Pratt	24	M
879	869	Mary Pratt	23	F
		Mary Pratt	2	F
		Michael Pratt	1/2	M
		Henry Blanton	22	M
880	870	Matilda Blanton	17	F
		Henry W. Blanton	2	M
		Joshua McIntosh	53	M
881	871	Patsy McIntosh	50	F
		And. McIntosh	18	M
		Margaret McIntosh	13	F
		Absalom Blanton	55	M
882	872	Nancy Blanton	56	F
		Wm. Blanton	21	M
		Martin Blanton	20	M
		Richard Marshall	45	M
883	873	Elizabeth Marshall	40	F
		Nancy Blanton	2	F

When you look at the 1860 Johnson Twsp., Washington Co, MO census, page 463 you see a peculiarity. The names seem to be out of order beginning with Elbert Blanton's family at family 867. His father, Joshua is listed as living with them, and his mother; Bethany Blanton is listed as living in family 868. The heads of the family are living in the previous household all the way to the Richard Marshall family in family 873. Then the census straightens out with John Fitzwater in house 874.

The confusion I thought was John Matthews', the census taker's error. But after careful research I now believe that all these families were living in the Absalom Blanton's mansion under one roof.

When on 25/26 July 1860, John Matthews came to the mansion to take the census, he started listing families one right after another. He numbered the families wrong without designating the head of each family. This led to a blurring of families that we see in the census.

Nowhere else did this happen in the census and this is the only place, I have seen this peculiarity in any census.

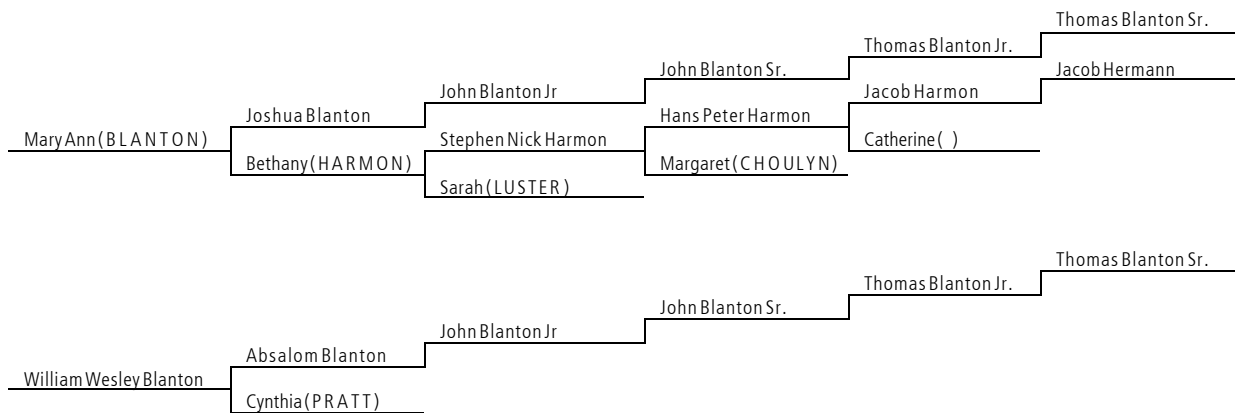
Consequently, this is proof that they all lived in the Blanton mansion.

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MARY ANN BLANTON

William Wesley Blanton son of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton married Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) daughter of Joshua & Bethanie (**HARMON**) Blanton 8 Oct 1867²⁰⁶ in Franklin County, Missouri.



After their marriage, William and Mary Ann had moved to Johnson Twsp, Washington Co., MO

Between 1870/1880 they moved to St. Francois Co., MO until the 1900 census when they again moved to Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

William died 2 Aug 1902 and Mary Ann moved back to Bonne Terre, St. Francois Co., MO and lived there until her death on 7 Aug 1940.

During the 1930's, the newspapers of the country were interested in writing a centennial acknowledgement of the "Trail of Tears".

Several newspapers along the infamous route wrote articles and interviewed with people who made the trip or were descendants of those who had made the trip.

On August 15, 1940, a few days after her death, "The Bonne Terre Bulletin", a local newspaper of Bonne Terre, St. Francois Co., Missouri published an article about the life of Mary Ann Blanton. Most likely the interview was taken a few months prior to Mary Ann's death.

I have reproduced the article for you and I will discuss the contents afterwards.

²⁰⁶ Marriage: Franklin Co., MO. Book "C", Page 109: William W. Blanton and Mary Ann Blanton were married on 8 Oct 1867.

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INDIAN WOMAN LIVING NEAR BONNE TERRE OLDEST RESIDENT OF LEAD BELT²⁰⁷

Living until one lacks but a little over two months of reaching the ripe old age of 118 falls to the lot of few people, but Bonne Terre, Mo., houses MARY ANN BLANTON, a Cherokee Indian Woman, who will reach that age if she lived until next Feb. 20th.

Born near what is now known as Fredericktown on Feb 20, 1816, one of a family of 14, 8 sisters and 5 brothers, all of whom have passed away, the daughter of NICK HARMON, an Indian who strayed from his tribe in search of a lost brother and met his wife in the Tennessee Mountains and after marriage migrated to Madison Co., Mo. Her mother was a half-breed and aside from the knowledge that she came from Tennessee she knows little relative to her mother's antecedents.

Her memory of early life is summed up in her statement that she worked hard from early until lots as far back as she can remember doing the chores that were in those days the lot of all tribal women, though she never spent any time with a tribe, her entire life having been spent in Madison, Franklin and St. Francois Co., Mo.

Her marriage to WILLIAM BLANTON a full-blooded Cherokee Indian occurred in 1857, though she cannot recollect the date. This union took place in Sullivan, MO., and the ceremony was performed by Squire SAM MELVIN, at the home of her brother, who resided in Sullivan.

When asked about her marriage license, she stated, "Why son, there was no such thing in those days, and the only record I had was in a book that I kept which was destroyed when our entire house and all the belongings were burned some years back." When asked how long ago this fire occurred, she stated, "too long ago for me to remember."

Asked about her family, she said: "Well, I wasn't married until I was an old woman, yet I had 6 children by my husband who died Aug. 2, 1902, after being invalid for over 15 years, that I had to carry around to move him and feed him like a baby."

Of the 6 children, CHARLES BLANTON died at age of 13 and BETHANY BLANTON died at age of 10, the remainders are alive. The oldest is a daughter, MRS. SARAH PULLEN, who resides in Granite City, IL. and is past 75 years of age. Her daughter, CATHERINE BLANTON, aged 66, and son LUTHER BLANTON aged 62, both living with their mother, were born in the little shack in the woods that she has called home for so many years she can't remember. The youngest son, ROBERT LEE BLANTON is aged 58 and also lives in Granite City.

Her early-married life was spent on the banks of the Meramec River, but she and her husband moved so frequently along the river that she was unable to definitely designate the place.

²⁰⁷ NEWS: Bonne Terre Bulletin August 15, 1940

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Her most vivid recollection and the most outstanding memories are those of the Civil War, the havoc of which impressed itself on her memory and about which she talks as though it was yesterday.

The devastation in some of the regions through which she and her husband traveled and the gruesomeness of some of the scenes they witnessed made an indelible impression, which even now she talks about with considerable feeling though she cannot give any details relative to any particular incident, passing it off with the statement, "there was so much happened in those days that was terrible, that no one incident during the war has impressed itself more fully than another."

Her earliest recollection of what is now known as Bonne Terre and dating back 60 years was its barrenness without a single house in what is now the principle city in the Lead Belt. "There was not a single house there, with the exception of a couple log huts located on what is now called the slime branch," she said.

She remembers distinctly when Firmin Desloge did his first mining in what is now called No. 3 shaft, but never took much interest in it because she did not know what good would come of getting lead.

"During the Civil War", she said "we lived in what is now called Flat River, and I sure remember the shots going through our house and the army men tearing up our house which comprised four rough walls, with only a partial roof and destroyed what little we had and left us to wander homeless and that was how we drifted to where we are now."

Mrs. BLANTON was asked to what she attributed her old age, and she answered she thought it was just a family habit to live long stating that her cousin, BETHANY BLANTON died at age 104 and spent her entire life along the Merrimac and outdoors, while her husband's uncle, Uncle VINCENT BLANTON lived in Kansas City and died at age 108.

Did you ever drink, asked the reporter, to which she replied: "I had the dyspepsia once and folks told me to drink whiskey and I did just that and it cured me, but I haven't drank none since, 'cause I haven't had no more dyspepsia."

Did you ever smoke? "Oh yes, until after the war when I got out of the notion and haven't smoked since that time. In fact, I haven't any desire for it except occasionally."

What church are you a member of next queried the writer. "None was the prompt reply, "never was inside one don't know nothing about it."

Have you had much illness Mrs. BLANTON, was the next query? "No, never had but two doctors in my life, once I had typhoid fever before I was married and the other time when I wrenched my back trying to lift my husband out of bed, and Dr. Evans of Bonne Terre kind of fixed me up."

Did you ever travel by train or otherwise? "Never been anywhere except the foot traveling with my husband except once I visited my daughter in Granite City, Ill."

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How did you live during 15 years that your husband was an invalid? What source of income did your husband have before his illness?

"Well, my usual day's work consisted of hacking 10 cords of wood a day and a cord of wood was nothing for me to turn out. I did this even when Mr. BLANTON was alive and just continued it. Of course, we had no comforts like you all have today, " she said, "we had no lamps, stoves, beds and our meals consisted mostly of milk and mush. We cooked by open fire, which also provided our heat in cold weather and had scaffolds in the wall, which we used for beds. We made our own clothes by spinning and weaving. I still eat 3 times a day, when I can get it, but that's not often. I haven't a tooth in my mouth, but my digestion is good, and the only physical trouble I have is occasionally with my heart."

Did you ever go to a dance or show? "No, I don't believe in them. They're not good for folks and shouldn't be allowed." Did you ever go to town? "What for? I've nothing to go for and am not able to walk and haven't any other way to get there, so I never leave the place."

She lives on the McGahan place now owned by St. Joseph Lead. The place is rather dilapidated in appearance, but well kept inside and Mrs. BLANTON walked down the 3 steps leading from one room the other, carrying a chair for fear that there were not enough chairs in the kitchen.

At the close of the interview we asked for a photograph of herself. Only has one large portrait saved from the fire and it is not good likeness, she says. Her daughter took the portrait from the wall and the reporter was astounded, it portrayed a woman in her early 20's, with blue eyes full of expression and a beautiful head of hair and really a marvelously beautiful creature to look upon. The clothing was indicative of apparel the equal of which the reportorial eyes had never heretofore perceived, but most becoming.

A tightly fitting costume indicated a figure that would make the modern flapper envy the owner. Stately, with a piercing look that at once expressed determination and kindness was so apparent that one could not help taking a look at the woman before him and register the thought that here was a character that would defy hardships, conclude any undertaking started, and yet possessed of that womanliness that appeals to every human.

118 yrs. is a long time to live, but one look at the young woman portrait spells the answer to why the pioneers of earlier days succeeded so well in their every undertaking.

Wrinkled and wearing a man's overcoat this 118 year old Indian woman left one feeling that the present generation really knows nothing of hardships and this despite the period of depression that has given the majority of us "heeby geebies" and made them feel that life is hardly worth living.

After listening to this aged woman, who experienced every hardship conceivable, who never enjoyed any of the modern comforts, who knows not the consolation of religion, who can neither read nor write and never attended a school, one cannot help but leave there with a thought that this is a good old world to live in.
(Author unknown)

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Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed²⁰⁸, Desloge, MO, gave the above article to me and here are her notes:

*"Mary Ann Blanton daughter of Joshua (brother to Absalom) and Bethany (**HARMON**) Blanton wife of William Wesley Blanton, son of Absalom and Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton was born 1847, maybe in Madison Co, MO. Family came to Scott Co., MO in 1842, according to Goodspeed. Her Father did spend part of Civil War years in St. Francois Co., MO. after having first settled in Washington Co., MO. by 1850. Mary Ann was married 1867. Came to Bonne Terre by 1880. Died August 7, 1940. Nick Harmon was her grandfather? Was he the brother of Isaac Harmon of Pendleton Co., VA whose brother went west into the mountains and was never heard of again? William Blanton was not a full-blooded Cherokee. Was the son of Absalom and Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton."*
Mabel Reed

My Comments: The above article has a great deal of historical facts mixed with erroneous dates. At Mary Ann's age, she must have been very sick when this was written. She died on August 7, 1940. Concerning Mable's comment that William, Mary Ann's husband was not a full blooded Cherokee I will address this issue.

At the time of this article in 1940, it was an embarrassment to claim Indian ancestry in your family. For Mary Ann to make up this relationship to the Cherokees would have brought shame and condemnation to her family. Also, why acknowledge the relationship if it wasn't true?

Mabel I feel carried some prejudice throughout her research and like me failed to acknowledge the Native American relationship the Pratts and the Blantons shared, which extended far beyond the Missouri marriages. I believe Mary Ann was right in claiming she and her husband were Cherokee Indians. To what extent is unknown.

I asked Mabel where she got her information that the Blantons and Pratts were not Indians and she said she just "felt" Mary Ann was wrong in the above article. I asked Mabel, could she produce any documentation refuting Mary Ann's story and she said she had none...it was her own opinion.

This is a contradiction from Mabel when she suggested in a letter²⁰⁹ in 1977 that the Pratts had Indian heritage.

Therefore the reader should not put much credibility into Mabel's recent comments and focus more on the facts and her earlier comments and research.

Even today I have been in correspondence with Mabel and at her elderly age she does not remember or recall things she concluded as facts when she was in her research prime. As old age creeps upon all of us, we tend to forget what we already knew.

Now let's take a look at the article about Mary Ann in detail.

²⁰⁸ Mabel married Harvey John Reed son of John Harvey & Rosie May (**KEYS**) Reed, daughter of William & Nancy Mariah "Queenie" (**BLANTON**) Keys daughter of Alexander A. & Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) Blanton, Alexander son of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton; Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt. Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed died on 25 August 2010 in Saint Joe Manor, 10 Lake Drive, Bonne Terre, Perry Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri, United States.
²⁰⁹ See page 108.

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- The article states Mary Ann was born Feb 20, 1816. She was actually born 20 Feb 1847. This is supported by census data from the 1850 census where she is listed as 4 years old.²¹⁰
- Due to her elderly age, it is understandable why she would confuse her birth date; however, it may have been the author's error.
- She claims she comes from a family of 14, 8 sisters and 5 brothers, which adds up to 13. In any case I can only find 11 children, 6 girls and 5 boys in Joshua & Bethanie "Nancy" (**HARMON**) Blanton's family. So, I must have missed some.
- Her mother was the daughter of Nick Harmon or Stephen "Nick" Harmon Sr. who went searching for his lost brother and found his Cherokee wife, Sarah (**LUSTER**) and were married 23 Jul 1799 in Greene Co., TN. Sarah was born 1780 in Virginia. The Harmon and Blanton researchers have always maintained that Sarah (**LUSTER**) was native Cherokee.

Stephen "Nick" Harmon Sr. is the son, of Hans Peter & Margaret (**CHOULYN**) Harmon and the brother of Susanna (**HARMON**) who married Jesse Carter Sr.

Concerning the nickname "Nick", T. Elmer Cox, a noted Greene County, Tennessee historian wrote a letter to William Jesse Blanton of Norwood, Missouri on 12 Dec 1978 and stated the following:

"I think Stephen Harmon was the son of Peter Harmon who came from Pennsylvania via Virginia and settled on the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, Greene County, Tennessee on or before 1790. He had several other sons, Capt. Peter Harmon, Esquire Isaac Harmon, John as well as several girls; yes they were of German origin. Esquire Isaac also married one of the Luster girls. Peter Sr. died about 1808 and Isaac acquired most of the old Harmon estate. When the above John died, he was the politician of the family, the inventory listed among other books; surveying equipment, several rifle barrels, and a tomahawk, the complete works of Josephus, the great Jewish General and historian.

The Luster family lived just Northeast of the Harmons on the Dry Fork of Lick Creek.

Nick was a common nick name used by the Harmon family and I have no explanation for it."

*T. Elmer Cox
Historian
Greene County, TN*

- Concerning her assumption that Stephen Harmon Sr. Came to Madison Co., MO after his marriage is false. Stephen Harmon Sr. is in the 1830 & 1840 census of Monroe Co., TN and moved to Washington Twsp., Independence Co., Arkansas by the 1850 census. He was 73 and Sarah (**LUSTER**) was 70 in that census.

²¹⁰ Census: 1850 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Township, house 950.

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- Now Mary Ann's parents, Joshua & Bethanie (**HARMON**) Blanton were married 1824/1825 in Greene Co., TN and came first to Scott Co., MO in 1842²¹¹ and then moved to Madison Co., MO by 1847 then to Washington Co., MO by the 1850 census.²¹²
- Her marriage to William Wesley Blanton took place on 8 Oct 1867 in Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO, not in 1857. William Wesley Blanton is the son of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton and was born March 1834 in Greene Co., TN. Since we know Cynthia was Cherokee then her son William must have been ½ Cherokee.

All of the above dates and names could have been taken down by the reporter in error or the reporter got confused when they wrote the article and mixed up event names, places and dates.

One undeniable fact, which cannot be repudiated...Mary Ann's confirmation of her and her husband's Indian heritage. Since the 1850's, it was not "in vogue" to declare, state, express or imply that you or your family had Indian or Negro ancestry.

People with Native American ancestry had a genuine fear of their white neighbors, and also feared, the government might take them away and put them on a reservation.

This is why they stuck close to their own relatives and lived in a common safe area. The Johnson Township of Washington County, Missouri is probably had more Indians living there than any other place in the county.

At Mary Ann's old age, she had achieved an attitude of indifference and was able to declare the truth without fear of reprisals or retribution.

Up until about the 1950's, the social stigma against families with Indian heritage was unrelenting. You were warned by your parents never to tell anyone about your heritage and most families never talked about their past or discussed it with their children.

Consequently, most children never knew they had Indian ancestry and parents seldom shared this with their children. Future generations became ignorant of their true heritage.

Even the television and movies from the 1940's, 1950's all the way up to the 1990's depicted native Americans as dumb, lazy, thieves, savages and anything the white men did to eradicate the natives was justified.

This false and misleading depiction by the entertainment media of Native Americans can only be based on one factor...shame.

If the true history could be told concerning the white man's actions against the native Americans, from the time of the Pilgrims, Americans would be ashamed that their ancestors had treated such good, honest and kind people with such disdain, hatred and contempt.

²¹¹ Goodspeed's "History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford & Gasconade Counties, Missouri" 1970, Reprint of the 1888, Page 722

²¹² Census: 1850 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Township, house 950

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In the meantime, those of us who know the truth about Native Americans must listen to the racial prejudice spewing forth from the entertainment industry with disgust.

I know the truth and I am doing my part to educate the rest of my relatives, Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) knew the truth and she too did her part to educate her relatives. With her testimony, one can only draw one conclusion.

Smoking gun: Since William Wesley Blanton was part Cherokee, and we know his father, Absalom was not a Cherokee, and his mother, Cynthia (PRATT) was a Cherokee. If Cynthia was a Cherokee, then her brother, Henry Pratt was also a Cherokee.

You could say not necessarily, but I say look at the way Henry Pratt was treated by society and the subsequent testimony of his descendants and that is proof that he had Native American ancestry.

- He never bought land, never attended legal meetings or became a party to legal documents.
- Neither he, nor any of his sons ever served the American government in war.
- Neither he, nor his children ever served in any form of local governmental affairs.
- He left prime farmland in Tennessee and through the dead of winter came to Missouri to live in caves.
- He settled 12/15 miles off the Trail of Tears at the same time the "Trail of Tears" came through Washington County.
- He settled near fresh water springs and caves.
- The name Cherokee means "people who live in cave country."
- He taught his children to be woodsmen for the next 5 generations.
- His children inter-married with other half-blood Cherokee children.
- Did not buy any land in Missouri.
- His children and descendants had dark complexions.
- Some of his grandchildren settled in Cherokee country in Oklahoma.
- Stories of an Indian ancestry have been handed down in the Pratts, Blantons, Campbells, Harmons, Sites, Allens and other family lines.

I am convinced, the more research is done on Henry Pratt, the more proof will be uncovered concerning his Native American ancestry.

In conclusion, concerning Mary Ann, even though she was 93 years old, she would not make up stories about her Indian heritage that might cast aspersions towards her family. She told the truth, maybe mixing up some events and dates, but nevertheless, she knew her Indian Heritage.

In those days, facts about dates and events were loosely knitted together because they did not have the documentation at their disposal that we have today and **knowing the exact date..... wasn't important**

Mary Ann is buried in the Adams Cemetery north of Bonne Terre, St. Francois Co., Missouri.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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OBITUARY: August 22, 1940, Newspaper unknown:

MARY ANN BLANTON DIES AT THE AGE OF 105

Mary Ann Blanton, who claimed to be the oldest citizen of St. Francois County died at her home near Big River Wednesday last following a long and active pioneer life.

Mrs. Blanton was the daughter of Joshua and Nancy Harmon Blanton. She was born in Madison County near Fredericktown, February 20, 1835.

In 1885 she was married to her first cousin, William Blanton. To this union six children were born three of whom are still living: two daughters, Mrs. Sarah Pullin, aged 67, Catherine Jane Blanton, aged 63, and one son, Luther, 61, all living at home.

Mrs. Blanton was the granddaughter of NICK HARMON who married a half-breed Indian girl while looking for his brother in Tennessee, who had married a Cherokee Indian.

In 1814, Nancy Harmon, Nick's daughter was married to Joshua Blanton, Mary Ann's father. There were fourteen children born to this union.

Mary Ann Blanton was a Free Will Baptist, having joined that church when a young girl. She continued to visit her relatives in St. Louis and Illinois as long as she was able to travel and until a few years ago, kept up with her brothers and knew where they were located.

In 1921 her only living brother, John A. Blanton, retired wagon maker and blacksmith, died at the age of 99 years. Up to five years before his death he owned and operated a blacksmith shop in Sullivan, with the help of his son Charles.

At the time of her death, Mary Ann Blanton was 105 years, 5 months, 17 days old.

She is survived by three children, two grand children and five great-grand children.

The above obituary does not state her death date. The statement "Wednesday the last" is confusing and ambiguous. Since I did not personally see the article in the newspaper, I cannot verify the actual date of the obituary.

Thanks to Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed, she gave me the date of the article and the date of death from the death certificate.

The 22nd was a Thursday, the 21st was the prior Wednesday, and prior to that was the 14th and Mary Ann died on Wednesday the 7th per her death certificate date. Therefore, she died 15 days before the obituary was published.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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THE CHEROKEES OF THE 1860's

The surviving Cherokees who made it to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma settled in the northeastern portion of the state.

When Chief John Ross arrived in Indian Territory, he found that Native Americans from all over the United States had been promised the same land in Indian Territory.

Conflicts and wars broke out as the new eastern Cherokees tried to establish dominance over the existing native residents of the territory.

The bogus treaty signers were killed in accordance with tribal law and conflict this split the Cherokee nation into two factions.

To make matters worse, the whites had declared war on each other and wanted the Cherokees to help. Both the Union and the Confederates solicited the Cherokees to fight for their causes.

It was the whites that taught the Cherokees how to conduct the slave business and now the south wanted them to fight for them.

The north wanted them to fight for them. How dare this government ask for the help of a people they tried to dispose and eliminate from off the face of the earth.

Conflict arose as to whose cause the Cherokees should entertain and this split the Cherokee nation in two. One section fought for the North and the other fought for the South against the wishes of Chief John Ross to stay neutral.

The whites raided the Cherokee farms, looted, burned, stole and destroyed everything regardless of that Cherokee affiliation. To the whites an Indian is an Indian.

The Pratts and the Blantons were southern sympathizers. Evidence of this is manifested in two areas. The names they named their children and which side of the Civil War their children chose to fight for.

- Henry Pratt did not name any of his male line after American leaders nor did any of his sons. The only reference to famous white men's names was by his son, Alexander who named one of his sons, Stonewall Jackson Pratt after General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson of the Confederacy.

Since Alexander was the only son to name a child from an American white man, it makes you wonder if he knew Stonewall Jackson personally or had met him.

- Henry's daughters, on the other hand, who married Blantons named their sons, Benjamin Franklin Blanton, Robert Lee Blanton and Martin Van Buren Blanton which were influenced by the Blanton side of the family, which were white men.

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Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansell named one of her children Sterling Price²¹³ Hansell, also influenced by her white husband, Henry H. Hansell.

It appears that the Pratts, to a lesser degree and the Blantons were southern sympathizers and is proven by several of the Blantons joining the Confederacy during the Civil War.

As far as the Pratts being strong southern sympathizers, it does not appear to be the case since none of the Pratts joined in the Civil War²¹⁴. The hatred for this government was probably still foremost in their minds.

After the Civil war, peace was made within the tribes and the Cherokee peoples began to prosper.

In the 1890's oil was discovered on Cherokee land in Oklahoma and the American Government decided the treaty they had signed promising the Cherokees "this land would be theirs for as long as the sun shines and the grass grows" was invalid.

Since the Cherokees wouldn't sell the land, Congress passed laws to dissolve the Cherokee Nation and take the land away and in 1907, Oklahoma became a state.

Once again proving that honor and integrity cannot be found in the American government.

Lawsuits ensued and in 1935 the government was forced to pay millions to the Cherokee Nation²¹⁵ but the damage had been done. They did not return the land.

If you remember the Meramec Dam Project, where the government took the land from the people and after the project fell through, they annexed the land to the Meramec State Park instead of returning the land to the people.

Stealing land from the people seems to be a characteristic of dishonest men in government. And when dishonest men dominate a government you have political disorder and lawlessness for a government.

This pattern of treachery by the government against the Cherokee peoples continues even to this day.

Read on about the Cherokees in Tennessee that weren't as lucky as the Missourians and how they lost their homeland to a lake.

²¹³ General Sterling Price fought for the Confederacy in Missouri and Kansas.

²¹⁴ There is speculation that may be John Absalom Pratt had joined the Union Army. More about this later.

²¹⁵ 1935 lawsuits.

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THE PRICE OF TELlico LAKE

In 1979, President Carter, who should have known better, signed the authorization to dam up the Tennessee River into what is now known as the Tellico Dam in the heart of our Cherokee country.

The following is an article about this travesty of justice and the indifference of the American government to the pleas and concerns expressed by Native Americans.

Newsweek, December 17, 1979, "The Price of Tellico" by Peter Matthiessen:²¹⁶

"In the late nineteenth century, a remnant band of Cherokees--descendants of those who had hidden in the Great Smokies in 1838 when the rest of the tribe was "removed" to Oklahoma--came down from the North Carolina mountains to a ceremonial place overlooking the valley of the Little Tennessee River.

There, an old prophet, climbing onto a high stump and gazing out over the traditional home of the Cherokee people, received a vision of a dreadful day still several generations in the future when this valley would be flooded over, and the faces of countless buried ancestors would glimmer upward through the unnatural waters as through a floor of glass. Tearful and frightened, the old man told his people that when the river no longer ran free through the sacred valley, the Cherokee would be destroyed forever as a tribe.

The recent closing of TVA's Tellico Dam at the river's mouth has not only fulfilled this prophecy but affirms an older one that anticipates the white man's disruption of the earth's natural harmonies, with calamitous consequences for mankind. Although the project had been repudiated for a decade in the Congress and the courts as uneconomical, unlawful and unnecessary, it has now achieved through procedural tricks and political blackmail what it had never been able to win in a fair hearing.

The last stretch of free-flowing river in northeast Tennessee has now been stopped up like a clogged pork barrel, and under the mud of the 25th artificial lake within 60 miles will lie not only the last natural spawning beds of the small, pretty perch called the snail darter, but the hard-won homesteads of hundreds of evicted families, 16,000 acres of rich river-bottom farmland and a historical record perhaps as important as all these other losses put together.

LOSS: I wish there had been time for all Americans to see this lovely valley, which I visited myself just a few weeks ago. In the soft, sad light of early November, the golden sassafras and yellow hickory, with the reds of black oak, tupelo and dogwood, and the clear whites and mossy greens of the rock walls at the river bends, were reflected like a memory in the clear, swift, quiet water that came down from the mountains; the day was filled with earth smells, muted beauties and a wistful resonance that echoed in the autumn calls of birds.

²¹⁶ Newsweek, 17 Dec 1979, Page 21, "The Price of Tellico" by Peter Matthiessen

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'You don't have to be a Cherokee to feel the spiritual power here,' murmured Roy Warren, an amateur archeologist and trout fisherman who fought hard against the loss of "the Little T."

*From where we stood, just upriver from the Tellico stream (in Cherokee, *ade la eqwa* or "tellico" means "big money") near the site of the first British fort built west of the Appalachians, we could see the tattered cornfield that marked the buried village of Tuskegee, birthplace of Sequoyah, the great Cherokee teacher whose name has been commemorated by a national park as well as a mighty tree.*

Farther upriver, Warren pointed out the sites of six other villages, including Tanasi (the original 'Tennessee') and Chota, the last great sacred center of the Cherokee nation.

In the eighteenth century, this tribe protected the beleaguered colonists of Virginia and Carolina from French-led Indians to westward, and sent warriors to help George Washington in the Big Sandy Expedition against the Shawnee. In 1814, the Cherokee set Andrew Jackson on the road to the White House by turning the tide in the battle of Horseshoe Bend against the Creeks, an act of friendship soon to be repaid by banishment on the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma.

Throughout the valley, the buried evidence of a great period-some of the hundreds of sites were thought to be more than 8,000 years old-was scarcely touched, despite the crude and hasty digs, grave desecration and plain looting that the threat of flooding had inspired.

A report prepared for the TVA by Department of Interior archeologists (dated May 24, 1979, but mysteriously withheld until after the final Tellico appropriations were signed into law by President Carter on Sept. 25) ascribes "worldwide significance" to these sites, declaring that "the physical records of American prehistory present in Tellico cannot be matched in any other area this size In the continent.

"If the homeland of our fathers is covered with this water," said an 80-year-old medicine man named Lloyd Sequoyah, "it will cover the medicine and spiritual strength of our people because this is the place from which the Cherokee people came. When this place is destroyed, the Cherokee people cease to exist...then all the peoples of the earth cease to exist."

*His sister, Mrs. Emmaline Driver, had made a pilgrimage to the place where the old seer "made his last prophecy" upon the stump; his brother Ammoneeta, also a medicine man, lived in an abandoned cabin at Chota for five years and still made regular journeys there to perform the going-to-water purification, gather medicinal herbs and, chant *idi-gawe-sti*, or sacred incantations.*

HERITAGE: All three of these great-great-great-grandchildren of Sequoyah are full-blood Cherokees proficient in their language; so is Myrtle Driver, the young tribal interpreter of Big Cove, N.C., who introduced me to her elders. Not until these years of struggle to save the sacred valley, Myrtle said, had she realized how much her heritage still meant to her.

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In the words of Jimmie Durham, one of many Cherokees who had spoken publicly against the dam since 1965, 'Is there a human being who does not revere his homeland, even though he may not return? ...In our own history, we teach that we were created there, which is truer than anthropological truth because it was there that we were given our vision as the Cherokee people.'

In 1967, the eastern Cherokee began protesting the backhoeing and bulldozing of sacred sites and ancestral graves. For Indians, the most dangerous sacrilege is to disturb the spirits of the dead. It will take some weeks before the flood waters reach the sacred land, and the Cherokee still carry on their fight for a hearing of their claim that the destruction of their sacred ground would deny religious rights guaranteed them under the First Amendment.

But the Tellico is a transgression against all of us. If the valley is filled, let them drain it again; let the dam stand as a monument, not too shortsightedness and greed, but to the wise avoidance of a national calamity. A beautiful river can be restored, rich farmland and historic sites can be recovered.

Eventually, the courts must grant a hearing, but in the absence of an injunction, the TVA, has closed its dam and thereby transformed the "strong water" of the sacred river into ama huli wotshi or "dead water," the floor of glass of the old prophecy through which-perhaps in a matter of weeks-the faces of the ancestors will appear, like pale dead leaves seen dimly through black ice.

Peter Matthiessen
Newsweek

I included this article to acquaint the reader with the parallel between the Tellico Lake Project in Tennessee and the Meramec Lake Project in Missouri. It appears that money seems to be the sole motivation for white men to justify their destructive behavior regardless of who gets hurt.

We were lucky in stopping the Meramec project in Missouri but the old archeological sites under the lake in Tennessee are gone.

But something the white man cannot destroy is the spirit of the Cherokee people.

I highly recommend you take your family to visit Monroe County, Tennessee and see the sites and places where our ancestors lived, worked and died. This experience will not only be informative and educational but also will enhance your association with your children and teach them respect and appreciation for their Cherokee ancestral heritage.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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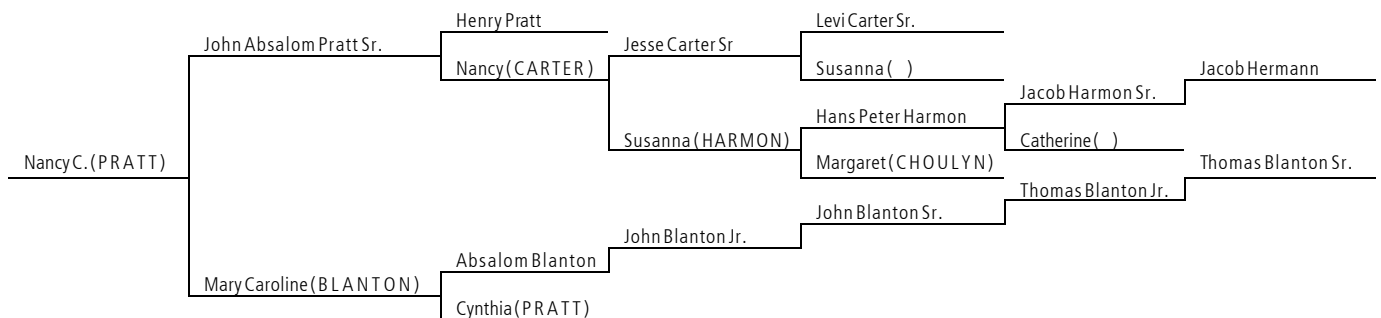
THE 1870 CENSUS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSOURI

CENSUS: 1870 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Twsp, Osage Post Office, taken on 16 Aug 1870, Page 16, House 110:					
Surname	Given	Age	Sex	Birth state	
BLANTON,	Absalom	65	M	KY	Farmer
	Nancy	67	F	TN	
PRATT,	Nancy C.	15	F	TN	
BLANTON,	Green	19	M	TN	

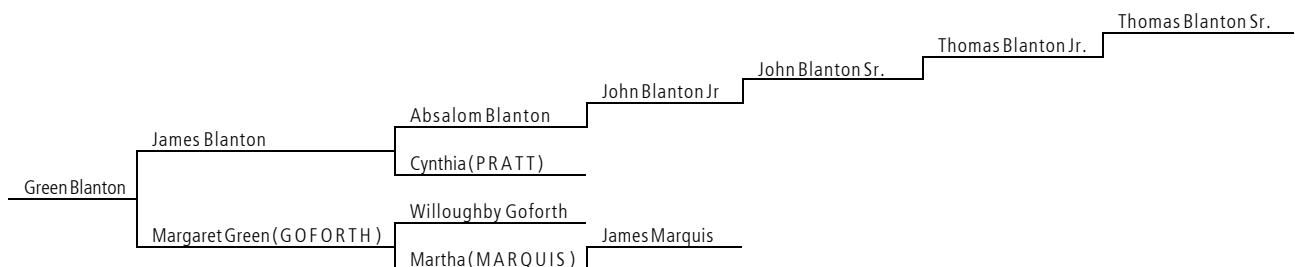
Living next door to his sons, John, Henry, Alexander and Elbert Blanton, Absalom has \$500 real estate value and \$400 personal property value.

Absalom is a male citizen of the United States 21 years and upward. Nancy cannot read and cannot write.

Nancy Catherine (**PRATT**) is the daughter of John Absalom Sr. & Mary Elizabeth Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) Pratt.



Green Blanton is the son of James & Margaret Green (**GOFORTH**) Blanton.



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THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM ABSALOM BLANTON

On March 4, 1872, Abraham Absalom Blanton died. I found this date in a deed²¹⁷ dated May 3, 1872 when widow Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton sold part of the homestead to The Missouri Smelting and Mineral Land Company. The following is the deed:

*"This deed made and entered into this third day of May Eighteen hundred and Seventy-Two by and between **NANCY BLANTON** widow of **ABSALOM BLANTON** who died March 4th 1872 without minor heirs of the County of Washington and State of Missouri party of the first part and the Missouri Smelting and Mineral Land Company of the State of Missouri party of the second part witnesseth that the said party of the first part in consideration of three hundred dollars to her paid by the said party of the second part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged do by these presents remise release and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part the following real estate situate in Washington County in the State of Missouri being the homestead of the late husband of the party of the first part and all together consisting of less than one hundred and sixty acres of land with the family dwelling all of said land being what as a homestead in connection therewith and more particular by as described as follows to wit the seven acres unto of the Northwest corner of the South West Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-Nine of Township Forty- North of Range One- West of 5th RM (SW 29.40 1W) being the tract of land conveyed to A. BLANTON by deed dated Nov 3rd 1849 of BENJAMIN A. SOULARD, FRANCIS W. KIRKPATRICK and CHARLES BRACKEN which deed was filed June 12th 1854 and recorded in book "H" Page 620 & 621 of the records of Washington County --Also all her right title and interest of every kind of the South East Quarter of Section thirty of township forty of range one west of 5th PM (SE 30, 40:1W) containing forty acres more or less which forty acres of land was also used by said ABSALOM BLANTON as part of his homestead to have and to hold the same together with all the rights immunities privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging unto the party of the second part and to it's heirs and assigns forever in witness whereof the said party of the first part has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written. Executed in presence of HENRY I. COLE, ALEX BLANTON, A.O. MELVIN, witnesses to her mark.*
NANCY X BLANTON (seal)
(W. E. McGREADY notarized the above deed on the 3 May 1872)"

7 acres= NW corner of the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 29 of Township 40N of R1W
40 acres= SE¼ of Section 30 of Township 40N of R1W (Homestead)

According to the above deed, this sale was to encompass 160 acres. However, I can't see all the 160 acres listed in the above deed.

Nancy may have rented the homestead home from the mining company until the mining was depleted or the ore became too expensive to ship as stated in Jo Schaper's article²¹⁸

In any case the boom was over and the mines had lost their value.

²¹⁷ Quit Claim Deed, Washington Co., MO, Book "U" page 322, May 3, 1872.

²¹⁸ See page 121, second paragraph.

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ALEXANDER "ALEX" R. PRATT TAKES POSSESSION

Alexander R. Pratt decided the homestead area of his father; Henry had been a great place to raise a family and he began to purchase the land from the Absalom Blanton heirs.

On 3 July 1873, Alexander Pratt buys a 1/8th interest in 40 acres on the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 30 on Hamilton Creek for \$60 from James & Nancy H. (**STEVENSON**) Blanton who lived in Hempstead Co., AR²¹⁹.

James Blanton is the oldest son of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton.

40 acres = NE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 30 of Township 40N of R1W of the 5th PM

Alexander Pratt continues to buy up the old homestead area from the other Blanton/Pratt heirs.

In Jo Schaper's article, she mentions an old log house above Pratt Spring, which may have been Henry Pratt's residence or Alexander's. In any case the Hamilton area held sentimental value to Alexander because this is where he lived and had raised his family since 1859.

On 4 October 1873²²⁰, Alexander Pratt pays \$50 each to buy out the heirs each owning the remaining 1/8th shares of Absalom Blanton's estate.

He buys out:

1. Elbert Sevier & Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Blanton,
2. John & Elizabeth (**BLANTON**) Allen
3. John Absalom & Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) Pratt
4. John Allen & Margaret Serice (**BLANTON**) Blanton
5. William Wesley & Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) Blanton
6. Alexander Blanton (widower by this time)
7. Henry Hubert & Matilda Jane (**PRATT**) Blanton
8. James & Nancy H. (**STEVENSON**) Blanton already mentioned.

North half of sat no one of the SW¼ of Section 30 of Township 40N of R1W of the 5th PM

Nancy, his mother age 70 may have rented the Blanton Mansion house or she may have lived with Alexander in the log cabin with his family.

At this time Alexander's family consisted of; Mary (**KIMBERLIN**), his wife age 38, and children; Mary Ellen age 16, Stonewall Jackson "Jack" age 12, Frances "Fannie" Minerva age 8, Polina "Lina" age 6, Henry Winslow "Win" age 4, and newborn Rhinehart "Rinard".

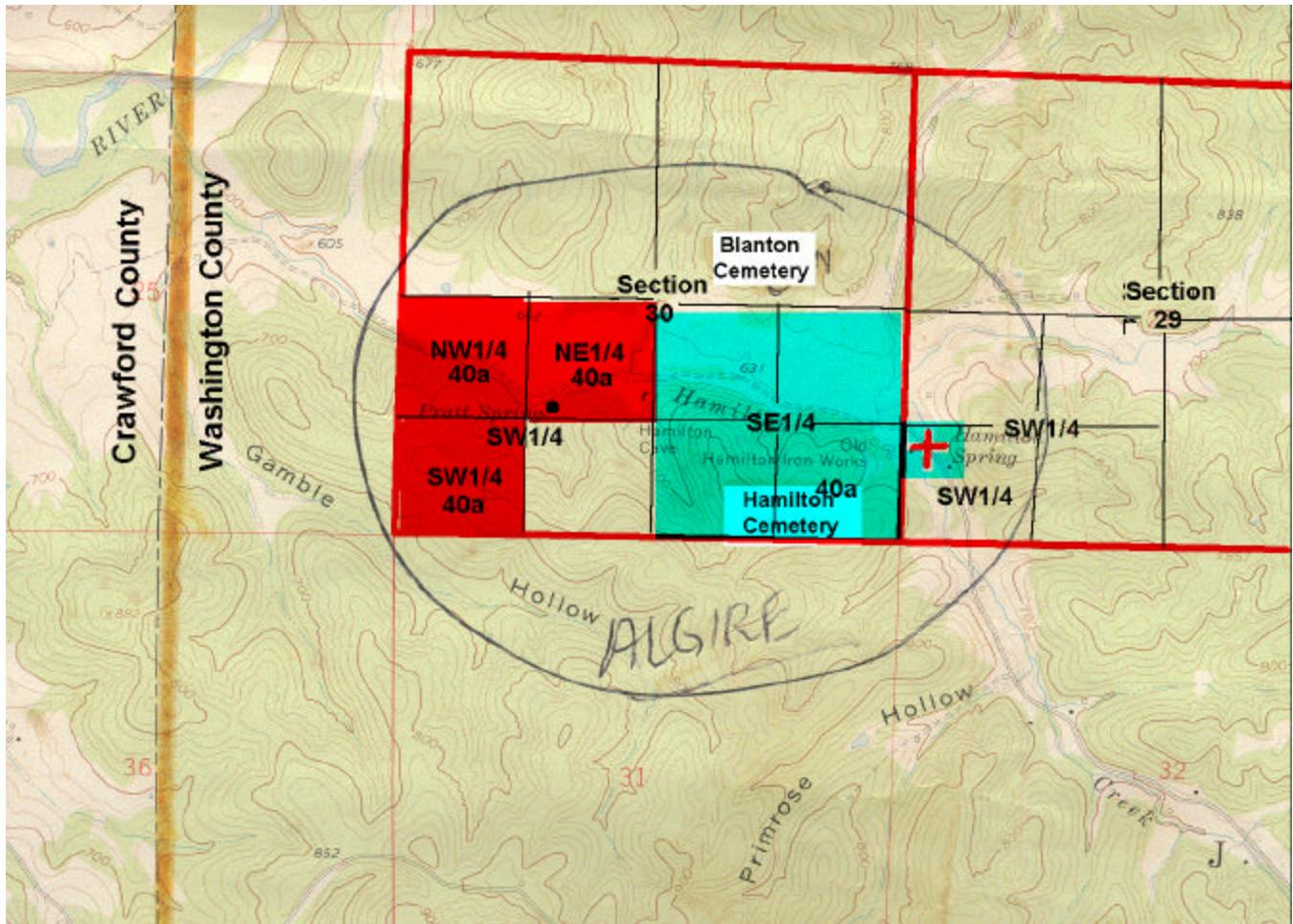
In any case the Pratts lived in Hamilton Hollow around Pratt Spring. See map.

²¹⁹ Deed: Hempstead Co., AR, Warranty Deed, July 3, 1873

²²⁰ Deed: Washington Co., MO., Book "V", Page 1-3, Oct 4, 1873

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The **Blue** area represents some of Absalom Blanton's properties before his death.

The **Red Cross** represents the Blanton mansion and the 7-acre homestead where Nancy and her children with Absalom and his children lived since 1852.

The **NW¹/₄ red** box represents the 40 acres that Alexander Pratt purchased from the Absalom Blanton heirs in 1873.

The **SW¹/₄ red** represents an additional 40 acres Alexander bought.

The **NE¹/₄ red** represents an additional 40 acres Alexander bought.

Notice the **black dot** where Pratt Spring is located.

Blanton Cemetery and Hamilton Cemetery were in close proximity to the Pratts and the Blantons.

If Henry Pratt did not die on the trail to the California Gold Rush and he died in this area, most likely he would have been buried in one of these cemeteries.

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As far as the log cabin located above the Pratt Spring, it may have belonged to Henry Pratt or could have been built by Alexander Pratt.

The way I see it, Alexander could have lived in one of three places:

1. The log cabin his father built above Pratt Spring.
2. The log cabin Alex built above Pratt Spring.
3. Or he moved into the Blanton Mansion house to take care of his aging mother.

What do I think would motivate Alexander to buy the land around Pratt Spring? I believe it was where his father homesteaded.

I believe he purchased the property for sentimental reasons and wanted to be near comfortable surroundings. After all, this is the area his parents settled after 1840 and he and his siblings grew up around those hills.

In any case, Alexander Pratt lived there and the area is special to Pratt and Blanton descendants.

THE DEATH OF NANCY (CARTER) PRATT BLANTON

After a long eventful life of 73 years, on the 17th of November 1875 probably at the mansion house, Nancy passes on. What a sad and terrible day that must have been for all the families in the tri-county area. I'm sure the neighbors and friends all paid their respects and condolences to the family.

On the 14th of January 1876, Alexander R. Pratt fulfills his duty and posts an Administrator's Bond²²¹ for the Estate of Nancy Blanton in Washington Co., MO.

*Affidavit: State of Missouri
County of Washington*

Alexander R. Pratt, administrator of the estate of Nancy Blanton, deceased, being duly sworn, says that the said Nancy Blanton died intestate, and without leaving any will, at Washington County, Missouri Nov 17th A.D. 1875 leaving as her heirs Alex R. Pratt, Jane Blanton wife of Henry Blanton, Sarah A. Blanton wife of Jno. A. Blanton, Mary Blanton wife of Alfred Blanton & Jacob H., Fanny, R.A. & Nancy Pratt children of Jas. Pratt decd living in Washington Co., MO. and Catherine, Alexander, Absalom, Augustus, Queen, Isabella, Susan, Benjamin, Sarah, and Louisa Blanton children of Alex & Nancy M. Blanton and Susan Hansell residing in Crawford Co., MO., and Lorinda Hull wife of Ira Hull residing in Laclede Co., MO. And that he will make a perfect inventory of, and faithfully administer all the estate of the said Nancy Blanton, and pay the debts as far as the assets will extend and the law direct, and account for and pay all assets, which shall come to his possession or knowledge.

Alexander R. Pratt his X mark

²²¹ BOND: Administrator's Bond, Washington Co., MO., 14 Jan 1876.

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The following factors make this document unique:

- It's the first time we see that Alexander Pratt had a middle name and it started with an R. Also, his nickname was Alex.
- This document gives us Nancy's death date and place.
- It also names her living heirs.
- Matilda Jane Pratt went by Jane.
- It lists her grandchildren of James & Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt.
- It lists her grandchildren of Alexander & Nancy Mariah (**PRATT**) Blanton.
- It names Lorinda (**PRATT**) Hull wife of Ira Hull residing in Laclede Co., MO., which indicates Lorinda, had remarried and was still alive by 1876.

Notice John Absalom & Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) Pratt and their children are **not** listed as heirs...more about this later. Nancy was probably buried in the Hamilton or Blanton Cemetery.

With the death of Nancy, a chapter on the Tennessee life and the Indian connection with the Cherokees came to a close. All of her children and the children of Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton had heard their parents tell the stories of their Cherokee heritage and their life in Tennessee.

Failure of the young to ask questions, waiting until the old ones have died to become interested in their roots, compounds the sorrow and with the passing of Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton any answers to these questions are silenced for future generations.

However, not that any of the Pratts or Blantons wanted to talk about their Indian heritage, in fact, in those days, your Indian heritage is not something you talked about in fear of condemnation or persecution or reprisals.

Because of a lack of record keeping by the Pratts and the Blantons, future generations will have to be content to piece together the stories, rumors and tales that runs in all the auxiliary lines of the Blanton, Pratt, Campbell, Harmon, Hansell and Kimberlin families of an Indian heritage.

No one up to now has wanted to pursue this truth. This is due to their failure to understand the eastern tribes and the social stigma attached to an Indian ancestry.

So, for almost 200 years the proof if any, died with the old ones and we the descendants, can only make assumptions and conclusions based on a collection of circumstantial evidence and hearsay.

However, make no mistake, this so called circumstantial evidence, which we have presented, carries a heavy weight of validity and would convince a jury to return a guilty plea based on the preponderance of evidence. Beyond a reasonable doubt they could draw only one conclusion ...Henry Pratt was a Cherokee.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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CLOSURE

In 1876, Alexander's youngest daughter, Minnie was born. Sometime between 1876/1880 his wife, Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) died and was probably buried at Hamilton or Blanton cemetery. She may have died giving birth to Minnie.

Alexander's oldest daughter, Mary Ellen (**PRATT**) married in 1878 to James Franklin Studdard, Stonewall Jackson Pratt married Mary "Mollie" Louise (**TAYLOR**) in 1884, Frances "Fannie" Minerva (**PRATT**) married Jackman Whiteside in 1885, and during the same year Alexander married 2nd Miss Catherine Adaline (**DUGAN**).

Polina "Lina" (**PRATT**) married Thomas Livey Callahan in 1887, in 1888 Carac Francis Pratt was born to Alexander and Catherine and in March of 1892, Cleveland Pratt was born.

On 8 October 1892, Alexander Pratt sells to Ross M. Crow 65 acres on the south west quarter of the northwest quarter and part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section thirty of township 40 and range one west on Hamilton Creek for \$1000²²².

65 acres = SW¹/₄ of the NW¹/₄ and part of the NW ¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of Section 30 township 40N R1W

On 29 January 1893, Henry Winslow Pratt marries Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**).

On 2 September 1893, Alexander Pratt sells to Ross M. Crow 80 acres North half of lot No. 2, north west quarter of the south west quarter section 30 township 40 range one west for \$1000.²²³

First part= North ¹/₂ of lot #2 NW¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of Section 30, Township 40N, Range 1W

Second part= NE¹/₄ of the SW¹/₄ of Section 30, Township 40N, Range 1W

The last sale was the old homestead with the log cabin that is mentioned in the Jo Schaper's article.

Ross M. Crow eventually bought the Blanton Mansion where the Blantons and Pratts enjoyed good times and raised a large family that has spread out across this nation in the tens of thousands.

After the demise of the Meramec Park Project in 1975, the government, instead of returning the land back to the people, extended the Meramec State Park and it's boundaries to include Hamilton Hollow and now owns our ancestor's homestead property.

After he sold the property, Alexander moves into Boone Twsp., Crawford County with his sons, Rinard, Carac and Cleveland according to the 1900 census.²²⁴

²²² Deed: Franklin Co., MO, Book , Oct 8, 1892

²²³ Deed: Franklin Co., MO. 2 Sep 1893

²²⁴ Census: 1900 Crawford Co., Mo., Boone Twsp, Page 11, taken on June 19, 1900, House 207.

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By 1910, Alex is living in Bourbon with his son, Henry Winslow & Laura Mary Magdalene **(MISSEY)** Pratt and family.

In 1912, he is visiting his daughter's family Thomas Livey & Polina "Lina" **(PRATT)** Callahan in Cherryville when he has a fatal heart attack.

Fred Callahan²²⁵ on 21 Jun 1982 related to me the following story:

"When Fred was a little boy, Grandpa ALEX (Alexander R. Pratt) came to visit his Mom and Dad (Lina & Tom Callahan).

Little Freddie used to "pick" on his Grandpa by climbing on him and playing with him like little children do with their grandparents.

One day, Grandpa Alex was rockin' in a rockin' chair by the fireplace chewin' tobacco, when little Freddie ran into the kitchen where his mother was cookin' and said "Momma, sumptins wrong with Grandpa", Lina said, "You quit pickin' on Grandpa or I'll box your ears."

They went into the front room and Alex Pratt had died of a heart attack. He was 79.

Because the roads were slick with ice from an ice storm, they couldn't get the wagon up the hills to take Alex Pratt back home to Sullivan, so they buried him in the Freeman Cemetery outside of Cherryville, Mo."

Carac Pratt, his son from his second marriage, put a small metal marker at the gravesite in 1975, which is still there as of this date. (1990)

The Blanton Mansion was on top of one of those hills in Hamilton Creek Valley. There may be remnants of the foundation of the mansion and maybe the log house I think Henry Pratt built.

During the Meramec Park Project, cries from the local residents asked the Corp of Engineers to spare the mansion from demolition but they ignored the residents and tore it down anyway.

You might ask, after the Project failed, could they restore a landmark as precious as our family's homestead? They cannot, and it is lost forever to future generations.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

²²⁵ Fred was born in 1906 in Cherryville, Crawford Co., MO. and was 6 years old when Alex died.

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HARD TIMES HARD MEN

Byron Nelson, 5th Great grandson of Henry Pratt related the following story to me concerning his grandfather, Joseph Henry Hansell²²⁶.

"Joseph Henry Hansell was called "Red Henry" not because of his fiery temper or red hair which he both possessed, but because his skin color was a deep copper. I will tell you a family story. It goes that Joseph Henry and his "brother"? were working for a farmer. When they went to collect their wages, "old grandpa" as they called Henry H²²⁷. had already collected their wages in the form of two hogs. After exchanging words with old grandpa, the two packed their belongings and left for the southwest. Joseph Henry who always carried a knife in his boot and his brother got into a fight in a Mexican cantina and Joseph Henry slit the throat of a Mexican and killed him. After that Joseph Henry fled back to Missouri. The brother never came back and was never heard from again. I believe now it was not his brother but his Uncle John Hansel because we know John Hansel was in and familiar with those parts. Twice Mexicans were known to have come to Missouri looking for Joseph Henry. Mistaking him for Joseph Henry, once they almost killed Uncle Ed while he was working in a mining operation near Herculaneum. The foreman happened to become suspicious and stopped the Mexican just as he was preparing to discharge his rifle. John Hansel²²⁸ may have made his way to Oklahoma to hide among the Native Americans, if necessary."

Jewel Maranda (**HANSELL**), Byron's mother adds:²²⁹

"Red Henry was known to have a hair-trigger temper when someone tried to cheat him or annoy him unnecessarily you were in danger of his wrath. He was buying the house in the leadbelt that they were living in and the old landlord (the seller) came by one day and somehow was pulling a deal and was cheating Grandfather. My Grandmother Maranda heard a loud dispute and stepped out to the front just in time to save the old landlord's life. My grandfather had a strangle hold on the old landlord had his head already pulled back and had his knife out when Maranda kept him from cutting that thieving worthless thing's throat."

The purpose of including these stories was to show several points.

1. Joseph Henry Hansell the great grandson of Henry Pratt had copper colored skin. This color was used to describe the skin of the Cherokees.

"They were copper color and proud of it, referred to Europeans as 'ugly whites', were lighter than their Indian neighbors, the Creeks and Choctaws and Iroquois."²³⁰

2. After the dispute in Mexico, John Hansell settled in Cherokee country until his death in 1923. There is evidence he was in Texas by 1892 may have moved to Oklahoma between 1892/1900.

²²⁶ Email transmission dated April 2, 2003.

²²⁷ Henry H. Hansel Jr.

²²⁸ John Hansell did escape to Marlow, Stevens Co., Oklahoma where he died on 15 Feb 1923, in the heart of the Cherokee Nation.

²²⁹ Email transmission dated April 2, 2003.

²³⁰ "Trail of Tears" by John Ehle (1988) Anchor Books, page 2.

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3. Also shows that Joseph Henry Hansell was good with a knife. This would be expected with a Cherokee heritage.

As I researched and talked to various relatives who had known the Pratts and the Blantons stories like the above began to emerge.

My Great Aunt Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**) Pratt and Ethel Delora (**MISSEY**) Isgriggs told me the following story about Henry Winslow Pratt:²³¹

“Henry Winslow “Win” and his son, Columbus “Lum” were having an argument one day over who was to cut some firewood. The story goes that Win told his son Lum to cut some firewood. Lum refused and Win told him he would have whip him if he didn't obey. Lum still refused and Win and Lum started to fight and brawl until Win won and Lum cut the firewood.

The amazing thing about this story is this probably took place between 1900/1914. Lum was probably 10 to 20 years old and Win was between 31 and 45!

Ethel also said the Pratt's were hard cases and rough people. They were also financially poor. This hard case characteristic in their personality is a carryover from the frontier days when life was rough and survival was the order of the day. Hard times required hard men and the Pratt's took second seat to none.

This had a positive influence and negative influence. The positive influence was that the Pratts were taught to stand on their own two feet and be accountable for their actions. This led to independence and strength. The negative result was a lack of flexibility and the ability to express love unconditionally. Without our dear wives teaching us to even the scales of justice with love, we could not be the loving husbands and fathers that we are today.”²³²

The Blantons were a rough set of characters. Many Blanton descendants have told me stories of the same caliber as above about the Blantons. See page 78 concerning the Indian woman story.

²³¹ Henry Winslow Pratt son of Alexander R. & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt.

²³² “Pratt Progenitor Papers, Volume 10, Henry Winslow Pratt & Descendants” by Floyd Thomas Pratt (1992) Pratt Publications, pages 17,18.

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OBSERVATIONS BY STANLEY HARMON

Stanley Harmon is a dedicated, professional researcher, who has made several trips to Monroe County to visit the old Harmon homesteads. He corresponded by letter with William Jesse "Bill" Blanton of Norwood, MO and conveyed his feelings and observations concerning the Monroe County area. The following excerpt from one of his letters is one of those observations.²³³

"My first sortie there in 1976 was really a thrill. Now that I know the place a bit, and have attained some facts about the old timers from whom we are descended, I just want to go there and reflect some more about what it meant to grind out a living and raise a family in those primitive times.

I am a bit ashamed of how our folks took such an active part in dispossessing the Cherokee Indians of their homeland.

We talk about how awful the Germans were to the Jews in WWII but the roundup of the Cherokees in the eastern part of Monroe and other Tennessee counties in the western foothills of the Blue Ridge and taking them forcibly to Oklahoma, western Arkansas territories in 1838, (incidentally the same time I believe old Joshua Blanton lit out for Missouri) in the affair called the 'Trail of Tears' is a sad tale indeed.

It was almost a death march. They were ill clothed and fed an exceptionally cold winter and change of circumstances and 'cultural shock' caused many to die on their way to the concentration camp. And what was it that our folks and their neighbors coveted that they had not already taken? All the good land along the Little Tennessee River and its tributaries had long since been put to the plow and likely worn out from bad farming practices. I think that is why our folks pulled up stakes and moved on.²³⁴ The cry 'there's gold in them their hills!' Right? The fabulous California was not yet ours. We had to take our gold where we could find it.

It took the whites about 40 years to take the last of their land away from the Overhill Cherokees. The Americans started "treatying" with the Cherokees of Monroe County as early as the 1780's. Finally they threw in the towel (many of them) and let "whitie" have it in 1817 and moved to a reserve in Arkansas. The Dean Mountain opposite from Harmontown on White River, Independence County was a corner marker of that reserve. Old Peter Harmon's farm in Cleberne was well inside the reserve as was the Brightwell place at present day St. James in Stone County. They stayed just 10 years and left a few relics in the Batesville area. I have some which could be Cherokee.

Some escaped the rap and married white people or black people and so now we are all Americans. If there is a buck in it, it seems that most of us will do whatever it takes to get it. Drown a valley, dam a stream, exile a neighbor! I guess it seemed more dog eat dog in those early days.

Your Harmon Cousin, Stanley"

²³³ Letter to William "Bill" Blanton 29 March 1989, page 5. Stanley is a descendant of Stephen "Nick" Harmon Sr., brother of Susanna Harmon who married Jesse Carter.

²³⁴ Stephen Harmon Sr. moved and settled in Independence Co., Arkansas by 1843/1850.

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SPIRITUAL CONNECTION?

My Uncle, James "Jim" Henry Pratt²³⁵ traveled a great deal after retiring and settled in a small Texas community called Brackettville (Kinney County).

Sometime in the 1980's my father, Floyd Theodore "Ted" and my stepmother, Dorothy (BEDNAREK) Pratt decided to visit him.

While they were there, Uncle Jim asked Dad to go with him to an old Indian Cemetery about 10 miles west of Brackettville on highway 90. Dad says they turned left off the highway and not far was an old Indian cemetery.

As they approached the cemetery gate, Uncle Jim asked Dad to go on in and that he would wait there for him. Dad walked in and as he looked at the various graves a strange sensation came over him. He told me that he had never felt that feeling before in his life and he became aware there was someone important buried there or that he might be related to some of these people buried there.

As he began to leave the cemetery he noticed that Uncle Jim had not entered into the cemetery. When he got to the gate, he began telling Uncle Jim about his strange experience and Uncle Jim never said a word. They went back to his house in silence.

This event took place a decade before I ever brought up the possibility that Henry Pratt was of Native American ancestry. So, none of my living relatives had any idea they were akin to the Cherokee peoples.

When Dad told me last year (2002) of his strange experience at the cemetery, I informed him the strange feeling was the Holy Ghost witnessing to his spirit of a family connection to some of those Indians in that cemetery.

Also, I told him during the civil war, some of the Cherokees including the Great Chief Sequoyah left northeastern Indian Territory and moved south into Texas to establish a community. They did not want to fight for either the North or the South and moved to avoid confrontations with the government. Sequoyah died somewhere in southern Texas, and his burial place is unknown to this day.

Maybe Dad found some of his Cherokee kin in that cemetery.

I also explained the reason Uncle Jim did not accompany him into the cemetery was because he too had experienced those same strange feelings and it had frightened him. He did not know what those feelings meant. That's why he asked Dad to go into the cemetery alone and did not want to talk about it afterwards.

Both my Dad and Uncle Jim never were spiritual men. I think they attended church only when they were forced to...as children.

²³⁵ James Henry Pratt (1931-1999) son of Columbus Benjamin Alexander & Rue Flavilla (JOHNSON) Pratt.

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Therefore, had they been more in-tune to the spirit, they would have recognized a connection and would have been thankful for the experience.

I wrote to the Kinney County Courthouse asking the name of the cemetery and they referred me to a local historian who did not reply to my inquiry. Consequently, I do not know the name of that cemetery.

CARAC FRANCIS PRATT

Vera Virginia (**PRATT**) Thebeau told me that her father, Carac Pratt had black hair and brown eyes and that Carac told her that Alexander Pratt had black hair and blue eyes. This is in harmony with many Cherokee. She also stated that Carac's teeth were long and slender which was a characteristic of the Cherokee Indians.

But the most important item she remembers is her dad; Carac took her brother; Richard to see Carac's half sister; Polina (**PRATT**) Callahan sometime in the 1940's for a visit. After Carac's mother, Catherine Adaline (**DUGAN**) Pratt, 2nd wife of Alexander R. Pratt, died in 1892, Polina, his half-sister helped raise Carac to adulthood.

So, Carac took his son, Richard²³⁶ for a visit. When Richard met Polina for the first time, he turned and said to his father, "She looks like a Indian, Dad."

Vera said that nothing was said about Indians because Carac was tight lipped and didn't talk much about his family. (Fear factor??)

As I began to acknowledge my Cherokee connection, doors, which had been closed to me during my research, began to open. It was as if I was allowed to see the truth concerning the Native American ancestry but when I researched looking for Henry Pratt as an Englishman, or European I was blinded by dead ends.

Pursuing a Native American heritage, events in the lives of the Pratts and Blantons started to fall into place and a sense of purpose began to justify my work.

This book represents a 28-year accumulation of research work; consider it as a joint compilation by many researchers, some who have passed on and some of us who are ready to pass on the eternal pursuit of truth to the next generation of researchers.

The valiant researcher will use this information to direct the focus of future research efforts to the Indian Records in the National Archives and the Archives of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

I am convinced; as future generations continue with what we have given you, more evidence to support the Cherokee connection will emerge and validate our proud Cherokee heritage.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

²³⁶ Elwin Richard Pratt, born 4 June 1921 in Courtois, Harmony Twsp., Washington Co., MO.

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LEGACIES

As I stood in the city of Greeneville, Greene County, Tennessee, I couldn't help but feel a kinship to the rocks, the hills and the sky knowing that my ancestors walked and worked this very area over 200 years ago. This hallowed ground of eastern Tennessee was the playground of my Cherokee ancestors.

I carried that melancholy feeling with me to Sweetwater, Monroe County, Tennessee.

As I stood on top of a hill and pondered the gentle rolling hills of Monroe County, a soft voice whispered in my ear...home.

A deep cultural reverence permeated my senses as I came to the realization that I was at the cradle of my ancestral origins and events of those times began to materialize in my mind.

Two hundred years earlier, after a bitter war, my Carter ancestors befriended the local Cherokee Indians, probably in an uneasy alliance for mutual trade, economic growth and peace.

Around this time, Henry Pratt was born to a Cherokee family. He may have received his English name at birth or a few years later. In any case, he grew up learning the ways of his Cherokee people and learned to live in harmony with nature.

While he was civilized in his tribal manner, a domesticated man he was not. Rugged, strong, handsome and independent have always been the character of the Pratts.

In each of the 6 generations of Pratts since Henry, my paternal progenitors have always attracted educated and genteel women. What the Pratts lacked in a formal education, they compensated with ingenuity and self-sufficiency.

Henry Pratt grew to adulthood, as a strong and capable citizen of the Cherokee nation.

Dealing with white men taught him caution and wisdom. He saw his homeland begin to disappear into white settlements.

Plentiful game reserves of deer and turkey became scarce as white settlers devoured and trespassed on the tribal sacred hunting grounds of the Cherokee.

His family moved frequently, attempting to avoid the white men and their vices. With the whites came change, and many of his tribal members rebelled against this change.

No longer was it considered proper for the men of the tribe to hunt and protect the sovereignty of the tribe. Now, white men wanted all Cherokees to farm and till the soil, which was traditionally woman's work.

Also, Henry noticed in dealings with the whites, his people were treated as children. They suffered mental as well as physical abuse, at the least were subjected to verbal insults.

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Knowing the history of the Cherokee, Henry knew 100 years of wars with the whites, who continually encroached on Cherokee land, was a reminder that he belonged to a defeated people.

With encouragement from the American government, the tribal grandfathers of the council advised the young of the tribe to learn the white man's ways and to adapt to the white man's methods. This included learning the techniques of the whites in all manner of farming, reading, writing and agricultural pursuits.

As Henry grew to manhood, he adopted some of the white man's ways while still maintaining his Cherokee roots. Living in both worlds taking the best from each.

At an early age of 19/20, Henry Pratt met Nancy (**CARTER**), a young white woman of 16/17, in Greene County. Smitten by her good looks and intelligent disposition, Nancy encouraged Henry to visit her as often as he could.

How much of the white man's ways, Henry had adopted is unknown. He never learned to read or write, but apparently, he was culturally attractive enough that Nancy encouraged a relationship and eventual marriage.

Henry knew that her family, the Carters had fought in several Indian wars and had lost several family members and were prejudiced against him and his people. But through Nancy's encouragement, they decided together, they could handle any in-law conflicts.

It does not appear her family agreed with this arrangement and Nancy had to elicit the aid of her Uncle Peter Harmon to post the necessary \$1250 marriage bond. On the same day of the bond, Henry married Nancy (**CARTER**) on the 3rd of October 1820.

It is unclear if Henry Pratt had always lived in Monroe County and traveled to Greeneville to trade where he met Nancy (**CARTER**) or if he actually lived in Greene County. In any case they were married and the marriage was filed in Greene County.

Together, without the help of her family, Henry and Nancy began to raise a family in Greene County with frequent trips to Monroe County for tribal meetings and visits with family.

Daughter, Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) arrived in 1821 and son, James in 1822.

Rumors had spread of the great white father in Washington wanting the "civilized nations" of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminoles to be removed to a far distant land in the west for their "safety".

Henry knew his people had befriended the white generals and had even sacrificed their own lives to do battle with the white man's enemies, the British, French, and Spanish in countless wars. This friendship, the Cherokees felt, secured them from any removal policy that the Americans might entertain.

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However, several of the Cherokee families were forced to move west of the Mississippi River to the land of the Arkansas, and as they left their substantial farms and gracious homes, the whites moved into the farms and towns.

Nancy's family was no exception. Her father, Jesse and brothers began moving into the Cherokee homeland of Monroe County between 1821/1826, as did the Blantons and Harmons.

Feeling that Greene County was congested with white men and the Cherokee were shifting further south to the safety of Georgia, Henry decided, with promptings from Nancy, to move to Monroe County, Tennessee.

Before, he moved, Henry saw his sister, Cynthia (**PRATT**) wed a white man, Abraham Absalom Blanton from Kentucky, in Greene County in 1825. Absalom Blanton was prosperous and a landowner. Henry and family bid them farewell and left for Monroe County.

Nancy's motivation to move to Monroe County was based on her love for her parents and her desire for the security and support of their proximity.

She knew that her Dad, Jesse had lost a nephew and several other relatives in the Indian wars but after all, times were changing and surely he could too.

Nancy's feeling that time would soften her father's discriminatory attitude towards Henry, was mistaken. No matter how hard she tried to make amends with her father, his stubborn racial prejudice prevailed.

Henry thought maybe he could gain the acceptance of his in-laws if he was to gain wealth and power; attributes admired by most white men.

His dark complexion and facial features prevented him from buying land outright because of his unmistakable Indian heritage.

Strange...in his mind, as an Indian, he did not need to buy land... it belonged to all the people. But, trying to be a white man, he was denied the rights of a white man and was not permitted to own his own land.

He had heard of the gold found down in Georgia, and thought if he could find some gold, then life would be better for him and his family.

So, he moved his family into Georgia but the Georgia legislature passed laws that said as an Indian, he had no rights in Georgia and if he did not leave, they would imprison him.

He moved back to Monroe County. But by then President Jackson, whom he thought was a friend to the Cherokee, as he had been told, had passed a law forcing the Cherokees to leave their homeland and be moved west of the Mississippi River.

The tribal council voted this was an improper law, and hoped Chief John Ross could change Jackson's mind. So, the Cherokees decided to ignore the law.

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Henry also heard about a renegade group of Cherokees who signed a treaty with the whites, selling all the Cherokee lands without the consensus of the tribe.

Henry signed a petition with 14,000 other tribal members claiming the new treaty a fraud. Once again, they asked Chief John Ross to intervene for them, so they would not have to leave their homeland.

Chief John Ross took the petition to Washington on their behalf and could not change President Van Buren's mind or the men of congress.

Henry had for many years established roots in Monroe County and even relented to being a trustee for the Ebenezer Methodist Church and Camp Grounds. He had become friends with Nancy's younger brother, Lewis, who sponsored him to become a trustee of the church.

Leaving his birthplace to go to a strange land was strange indeed. He won't do it.

Little was Henry aware the Chickasaw, the Choctaw, the Seminole and the Creeks had systematically one by one been uprooted from their homelands and forced out west by the whites. When it came time for the Cherokee, there was no one left to fight the whites...they were all gone.

So, in the spring of 1838, after the planting was done, and the robins sang and the cherry trees began to flower...the soldiers came.

They informed Henry and Nancy all Indians were being moved to the towns of Agency (Calhoun) in McMinn County or to Ross's Landing (Chattanooga) and the Cherokees were going to be taken to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

Anger flamed Henry's emotions as he reached for his rifle and he and his sons prepared to fight, but...for the sake of the children, Nancy intervened and asked them not to fight.

Anger was replaced with humiliation and the tears began to flow as they looked upon their homeland one last time. The forest had become the playground for their children and for years the gentle rolling hills had provided a harvest for the support of the family.

They packed what they could into their ox cart and slowly walked away from their beautiful home. The chickens, the pigs, the pear, apple and cherry trees and ancestral homeland were no longer theirs as they were forced by bayonet to the stockade at Calhoun.

Through the tears, traveling down the road, one last time, a road they had traveled hundreds of times, they reminisced about the events and experiences they had shared together.

Inquisitive as six year olds are, Alexander probably asked his momma, why they had to leave their home? His question was answered with silence as Nancy lost control and wept.

Many tribal members, family and friends were taken from their comfortable homes with only the clothes they wore, no food or blankets.

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Families were separated, children lost and the soldiers took away some of the natives never to be seen again (presumed killed).

The white "pioneers" followed the soldiers from home to home and after the Cherokees were evicted, moved into the homes and claimed these homes as there own.

Some of the Carters, upon hearing what had taken place, visited Henry and Nancy and the children in the stockade and probably brought them food and provisions. In the stockade, they had to sleep on the ground with no pillows or blankets.

The government stated white spouses would not have to go to the west and could stay. But, most were shocked to even consider splitting up the family. Those whites that harbored hatred for the Indians, felt it served them right for marrying Indians in the first place.

Month after month in the confined quarters of the stockade, death, disease and a lack of sanitation took its toll on the native people. Poor food and exposure claimed many lives and death was common.

After several months in the stockades, in September, Richard Taylor informed them they would be assigned to his detachment and they were taking the trail route through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri and would arrive in Indian country in about 3 to 4 months.

He also explained a detachment had left a year earlier, and they would be following the same route, B.B. Cannon's trail.

When the Indians asked why they were going north instead of the southern route with the others, they were told supplies and towns where repairs could be obtained were more plentiful along the northern route.

It was strange to see the rich and poor, masters and slaves, young and old Indians and many, many children on the trail as they left McMinn County. Most of them walked with what they could carry.

Not understanding what they did wrong to anger the great Chief in Washington, the Cherokees began their journey a defeated and broken people.

However, not far on the journey, this attitude changed and the Cherokees decided the only way to survive was to escape.

As soon as they crossed into Kentucky, more people started to become sick.

The promised supplies the military had promised to have waiting for them were not at the designated rendezvous points.

What food they could buy was rotten and the local citizens along the way charged much more than the food was worth. Repair costs were inflated and most of the settlers along the trail did not want the Indians coming through their towns or across their lands.

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The winter of 1838 was more severe than anticipated by the American government and they were not prepared for the additional hardships suffered by the natives.

People of all ages caught colds, which led to pneumonia and diseases from unclean water and rotten food. The death toll began to rise until they averaged double digits per day.

Somewhere along the trail, Henry and Nancy may have lost their two boys who were with them in the 1830 census. They either died from sickness or lost in the woods, maybe adopted by local families. In any case, Henry and Nancy's tragedy was compounded by the loss of their boys.

When they arrived at the Mississippi River, the winter cold had frozen the river solid with big chunks of ice blocking their way. Some of the people had made it to the other side and could do nothing but wait for the river to melt so the rest of the party could join them.

In February 1839, they finally crossed the ice and entered Missouri. The Missouri citizens were friendlier and helped the Indians along the trail.

Their party turned north while other trails turned south into Arkansas.

Up through Jackson, Fredericktown and Farmington, Missouri they traveled.

When they got to the Potosi area, in Washington County, Peter Hildebrand's group split from Taylor's group and went west through Dent County to Licking then to Marshfield south into Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma.

Taylor's group was to continue westward through Huzzah, Steeleville, to St. James then down the Kickapoo Indian Trail, what is now Interstate 44 through Marshfield to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

There was something familiar about the terrain and territory of this new place called Missouri. There were fruit trees and nut trees and wild blackberries and plentiful turkey, deer and bear and the gentle rolling hills reminded Henry and Nancy of their home in Monroe County.

Henry and Nancy decided enough was enough. All along the trail they had seen the cruelty of soldiers prodding the old with their bayonets to move faster, and other soldiers pursuing the Indians who split off from the trail, trying to get away.

Stories had been told of Indians taken away by the soldiers...never to be seen again.

Henry decided at the first opportunity, his family would slip away in the night and head far way from the detachment into the safety of the hills.

As they sojourned into Washington County, the terrain was familiar. Gentle rolling hills and sometimes-deep hollows afforded shelter and safety from the prying eyes of the soldiers. Also, Missouri had many caves which Henry and family found comforting.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Sometime during the night, Henry and family seized their opportunity, slipping away some 10-12 miles north, along the creek beds and up the Meramec River or its tributaries.

They found the hilly terrain with an abundance of caves and fresh water springs sparsely populated with settlers.

Crawford County, its thick wooded forests with plenty of game afforded a poor but adequate substitute for their home in Monroe County.

Henry and family settled deep in the woods far from the prying eyes of the soldiers and in a few months, Henry and family moved into Washington County and settled in what is known as Richwoods Township southeast of Sullivan, Missouri.

Henry and Nancy warned their children not to get too friendly with the locals, because if they found out who they were, the soldiers would take them away to another concentration camp.

They instructed their children not to speak of where they were from or who they were or anything about their Indian heritage.

As time passed, they befriended several families in the area. Some families had Indian spouses and the Pratts found safety in the seclusion of the woods.

When in Richwoods Township, they lived in close proximity to the Rinard²³⁷ Kimberlin family.

The Kimberlin family was from Virginia and through land grants, given by the American government, settled in Washington County in 1828.

Henry and Rinard became good friends and unknown to Henry; one-day two of Rinard's daughters would become wives for Henry's sons.²³⁸

Shortly after the summer of 1840, Henry moved his family westward to Johnson Township, into an area now known as Hamilton Valley. The natural isolation of Hamilton Hollow furnished the Pratts with the security and protection they desired.

On several exploratory trips, Henry found the wilderness of Hamilton Valley with its steep hills, deep caves, fresh water springs and plentiful game afforded the family an opportunity for better security to hide from the soldiers.

He knew if *they* knew where he was, *they* would come and take his family to the west and he did not want to go to any more concentration camps.

Henry built a log cabin on the ridge right above a spring, today known as Pratt Spring.

Henry tried to buy the land, but Missouri would not sell land to Indians.

²³⁷ Rhinehart "Rinard" named after his great-grandmother, Mary Magdalena Rhinehart from Germany.

²³⁸ Henry died before these marriages took place.

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He and his boys cut railroad ties and labored for other farmers trying to make some money to help support the family.

Sometime after Henry and Nancy's arrival in Missouri, Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton made contact with them during the 1840's.

The Blantons had purchased land by Sullivan and lived in close proximity with the white man. After all, Absalom was a white man and was afforded all the rights and privileges of a white man.

While visiting his in-laws, the Pratts, Absalom took several exploratory trips into Hamilton Valley and found the area had great possibilities for mining.

He bought several pieces of land amounting to 160 acres including a 7-acre homestead plot in 1849. He established a successful mining operation and with some of his wealth, he built a 3 story, 13-room mansion with a handmade wide curving staircase railing.

During the time that Absalom settled into Hamilton Valley, Henry Pratt died between 1842/1850.

Shortly thereafter, around 1851/1852 Henry's sister, Absalom's wife, Cynthia died.

Widower Absalom Blanton, a white man with 5 half blood Indian children and widow Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt a white woman with 5 half blood Indian children decided to get married in 1852.

Absalom and Nancy never had children together, but several of their half blood Indian children married first cousins, which was in harmony with tribal law.

The mining operation of Absalom Blanton afforded the men in the area with jobs. In fact, mining and the support thereof was the number one employment for that Missouri area.

Henry had taught his sons to make railroad ties for the railroad and now mining props, staves and cordwood was added to the inventory of the Pratts. Railroad ties were used on the railroad spurs and the cordwood was used to fire the furnaces.

This vocation was so successful, for 4 generations from Henry, Alex, and Winslow down to my Grandpa, Columbus "Lum" Pratt, all cut railroad ties for additional income. The Pratts were natural woodsmen.

Today, this art is almost lost if not for several men at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO. They perform a demonstration-making railroad ties the old fashioned way...with a broad axe.

This entrepreneurial spirit has filtered down through the Pratts over the last 6 generations. Not only were Henry, Alex and Winslow sole proprietors, but also Lum Pratt was a masonry contractor who built houses, chimneys, and rock walls in addition to working ties.

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My Father, Floyd "Ted" was a self-employed insurance executive, his brothers Jim and Roy were self-employed truck drivers, and I have owned several insurance agencies and other businesses.

My Pratt cousins own a trucking firm and a small engine repair shop. And the examples go on and on.

We Pratts are not happy working for someone else, in fact we find it extremely difficult to be boxed into a job and the more unsupervised freedom we have in our employment, the happier we are.

The Pratts have always been outdoorsmen. My father used to fish and hunt with his father and "Lum" learned to survive in the outdoors from his father, "Win" who was taught by Alex and so on.

The happiest times I ever had was when I owned a small farm in Marshfield raising cattle, pigs, chickens, horses and children.

My father's generation was the first to leave the country life and forge a living in the city in the 1940's. My fondest memories were visiting my cousins in Bourbon or Steelville where I enjoyed doing "country" things with them. Being a "city boy", I used to envy them and their lifestyle.

Rugged outdoorsmanship is a strong character trait that runs in the Pratts. I feel, this is a natural gift inherited through the generations and is a direct benefit from our native heritage.

In 1872, Absalom died. Nancy died in 1875 and Alexander, son of Henry & Nancy eventually bought the old homestead with the log cabin of Henry Pratt and raised his family there until most of them were grown and gone.

In 1892, Alexander Pratt sold the homestead to Ross M. Crow, who eventually purchased Absalom Blanton's mansion and lived there until the depression of the 1930's when the old house was abandoned.

Local citizens of the 20th century referred to the house as the old Crow Mansion.

In 1975, the Missouri Corps of Engineers decided to build a recreational lake in that area.

They began by condemning; appropriating and buying up prime real estate cheaply **before** they had the approval of the Missouri citizens. In their haste to built their dam and contrary to local protests from historical and citizen's preservation groups, they destroyed the old log cabin and demolished the old Blanton mansion house.

The Missouri citizens eventually defeated the Dam Project and the Missouri Parks Department decided that the 5 caves and the 3 fresh water springs were too important to give back to the people, so they annexed the Hamilton Valley area into the Meramec State Park.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Surviving the American government's experiment of the 19th century of their attempt at ethnic cleansing, or as I call it, the American Holocaust, namely Indian eradication, Henry and Nancy Pratt have proven their worthiness of our praise and admiration.

Even long after their deaths, Henry & Nancy have the last laugh. The very country that persecuted and pursued them, making them fugitives in their homeland, now calls their children's children...honored citizens if not in name only.

Thanks to Henry and Nancy, their descendants have spread out all over the United States and have become useful and valuable citizens and enjoy unlimited opportunities for prosperity.

Through Henry & Nancy's hard work, hardships, sacrifices, disappointments and struggles they have left us a precious gift...a connection to a Native American heritage.

As one of their descendants, I hope I have honored this gift by telling their inspiring story and maybe one day, earn *their* respect and admiration.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F./H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003

"The American Government has never fully atoned for the atrocities perpetrated against the native peoples. I fear one day, judgment will be meted and retribution will destroy the wheat along with the tares and the late great United States will be but a by-line in the annals of history."

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F./H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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EPILOGUE

In 1975, my wife worked at Tile Town Carpet City in Springfield, MO with a woman named Verla Green. Verla had a sweet spirit and a lovely disposition. When my wife was around her, Bonnie experienced a peaceful and harmonious feeling.

One day, my wife asked Verla what made her such a lovely individual. Verla replied it was her religion that made her so happy. My wife wanted to know more and asked Verla to send the missionaries from her church to visit our family.

On a fall day, two young men were invited by my wife to present to our family the story of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In the process of explaining the story they informed us about the Book of Mormon and how it was the story of a family from Jerusalem who was guided by the Lord to embark on a journey to leave their home and build a boat and eventually settle in the South American continent.

They explained, these people started two major races of people on the South American continent and their descendants migrated northward and became the people we know as the Incas, Aztecs, Hispanic and Native American Indians.

They explained the Book of Mormon took place between 500BC and 1500AD and the American Indians are descendants from this tribe of people.

When they presented this information to me I felt a feeling like no other feeling before in my life. I later found out it was the Holy Ghost witnessing to me the truthfulness of their words. I could not deny my feelings and after diligent prayer, we, as a family accepted these truths and we became members of the Church on 23 December 1975.

As part of our education, we were taught the plan of Salvation, which answered the eternal questions, why we are here, where we came from and where we go when we leave this earthly existence. But most important to me, they explained the purpose for genealogy and family history.

I discovered the purpose of temple work dating back all the way to the old testament and I became inspired, akin to an awakening and since then, genealogy has become my life's calling.

Truly, I was smitten by the spirit of Elijah, as was prophesized by Malachi in Malachi 4:5,6.

Little did I know, that the Book of Mormon was written for us in this generation, which explained the origins of my native ancestry.

In 1975, I had no idea I was descended from Native Americans. Not until last year (2002) did I find the truth about Henry Pratt.

The Book of Mormon tells the story of the origin of the Native Americans. It tells the story the Native Americans are one of the lost tribes of Israel.

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The Mormons are not the only ones who share this belief. When I was researching the Cherokees I found several references by 19th century researchers entertaining this idea. John Ehle presents the following from his book, "Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation":

"Investigations were made in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to determine whether the American Indians were the lost tribes of Judah; and it was pretty well proved both yes and no, and unprovable either way, which made it an excellent topic for study and exploitation, one populated by warm bodies and tearstained faces and beautiful, waiting children.

James Adair, an Irish trader who lived among the Cherokees for forty years, decided the Indians were indeed one of the lost tribes and wrote seventy thousand words on the subject at a time when printed words were dear. He used as evidence such topics as their division into tribes; their language and dialects; their festivals, feasts, and religious rites; their absolutions and anointings; their laws of uncleanness, their avoidance of unclean things; their practices of marriage, divorce, and punishment for adultery; their ornaments.

...Adair was one of a series of writers who held similar views, among them Gregorio Garcia in his Origen de las Indios de el Nuevo Mundo (1607), Bartolome de las Casas, Thomas Thorowgood in his Lewes in America (1650 and 1660), John Eliot in his Conjectures, Manasseh ben Israel, Cotton Mather, Roger Williams, William Penn, Charles Beatty in The Journal of Two-Months Tour (1768)."²³⁹

As I look back on the last 55 years of my life, I can see where the Lord has directed me to this truth by leaving signs along my life's path, which in my ignorance and stubbornness...I ignored.

When I was 21 (1969), I sold debit insurance and my route was into the Jefferson, Franklin and Washington counties area of Missouri. I met many people who were my relatives and I did not know we were related²⁴⁰.

I traveled all over the area becoming familiar with the back roads of those counties of Missouri. I fell in love with those hills and the people who had settled or chose to live there.

I was living in St. Louis and in 1973 took a sales position with a chemical company and started traveling down to Springfield, MO. I had a route that took me into 6 counties including even into Arkansas.

I became familiar with the area and moved to Springfield where I spent 12 years before I bought a farm outside Marshfield, MO.

In 1985, we moved to St. Charles, MO and my family history research was intensified.

²³⁹ "Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation", by John Ehle (1988), Anchor Books, New York, Page 1.

²⁴⁰ I had not joined the Church until 1975 at age 27.

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I spent weekends driving out to Crawford, Washington, Franklin counties investigating records, cemeteries, family reunions, and visiting with old Pratt, Harmon, Carter, Blanton, Campbell, Callahan, Kimberlin, Missey and Studdard family members.

Little did I know, the Hamilton Hollow visit where I located the Hamilton cemetery was actually the homestead of my Henry Pratt and Nancy (**CARTER**). Also, little did I know Potosi, Steelville, St. James, Rolla, Marshfield, and Springfield were on the direct route of my ancestors "Trail of Tears" even though they did not make it that far.

All these activities prepared me for the most important discovery I would make...my Native American ancestry.

In the twilight of my years, I now can see how Heavenly Father's plan began long ago before I was born and by obedience to the gospel and through temple work, many will be blessed in this life and the next.

My point...don't let life's struggles blur your vision or these signs might escape *your* attention and you could miss an opportunity to discover a higher calling.

If Henry Pratt or his sister, Cynthia Pratt is your ancestor, then take advantage of the history of the Cherokee Indians and previously to that, their family origins in the Book of Mormon. If you do not have a copy of the Book of Mormon, notify me and I will send you a free copy.

In the Book of Mormon, you will discover:

- Why the natives broke off into different tribes.
- Why the white man was allowed to take over this continent and claim North America.
- Why the natives painted their faces.
- Why the Savior did visit our ancestors and promised one day to return.
- Why the natives mistakenly thought Cortez, Pizzaro, and Captain James Cook was the Savior.
- Our ancestral hero's who served the Lord on the American continent.
- What is the plan of salvation?
- Which of the 12 tribes of Israel...Native Americans belong.

But most important, why did the Savior say to our ancestors on the American continent, "you are the other sheep not of this fold". All these questions are answered in the Book of Mormon.

Did I know the Indians in the Book of Mormon had anything to do with me? No. Not until last year. But, I now know why I am the only member of my family to join this church and why I was chosen to do genealogical temple work for yours and my ancestors.

Don't misunderstand me; I do not think I am more important than the next guy. I just recognized the truth and the eternal blessings of Temple work in this life and the effect it has on those who have passed on.

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I highly recommend that you read further information about the Cherokees and the “Five Civilized Tribes” and especially the “Trail of Tears”. This knowledge will give you a deep appreciation for the trials and tribulations our ancestors had to endure.

I am sure future investigations by researchers will unfold newspaper articles and governmental documents validating our Native American ancestry.

I also recommend a comprehensive study of the Book of Mormon. Free copies are available from the missionaries and they will be glad to help you study your ancestors.

The Book of Mormon will answer many of your questions and can change your life...it did mine.

I started out this book by stating, “I had engaged into genealogy research to fulfill the requirements of my church”. However, over the course of the last 28 years, this research has endowed me with insights into my ancestry and following along this path, my life has been enriched.

I have made new friends and met related family members I would not have met without doing the research. As knowledge was gained, I have been able to help others in pursuit of their ancestors.

Through the study of the Book of Mormon, I have discovered the answers to the reasons behind the demise of the Native American cultures and the rise of European influence in the America’s.

I have become educated to the history of the United States and the reasons behind European immigration. In the course of these studies, I now know the forces behind the pioneer expansion and the colonization of the North American continent.

I have traveled this continent from one ocean to the other in pursuit of my ancestral history and in the process have observed the most beautiful land on the earth.

I have visited courthouses, cemeteries, libraries and National Archives and thousands of cities learning about my people and why they settled where they settled.

All this knowledge and experiences was gained through the pursuit of genealogy research.

From the day we are born, we ask; where did we come from and why are we here? Through this research the answers to these questions were discovered.

I want to thank my Father in Heaven for his wisdom in directing his children to genealogy and family history research. By obedience, we, his children have been the benefactors who have reaped the harvest of countless blessings, and in the process, fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi²⁴¹.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

²⁴¹ Malachi 4:5,6. For additional information about Elijah’s visit to the earth in the 19th century, contact the Mormon missionaries.

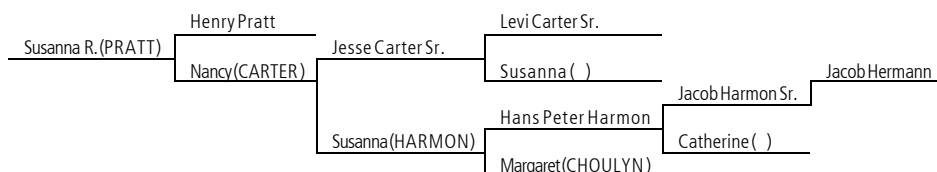
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DESCENDANTS

This section of the book, reports on Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt's descendants. Their children are in **red**. The grandchildren are in **blue**.

I have omitted source verification for dates, marriages, deeds, births and death records to reduce the paper work. This information can be obtained from the author in various related publications, *i.e.*, Pratt Progenitor Papers, Cradle to Grave Profiles.



SUSANNA REBECCA (PRATT) AND HENRY H. HANSEL FAMILY²⁴²

Susanna Rebecca (PRATT) was born 4 Aug 1821/1822 in Greene County, TN. After arriving in Crawford Co., MO, in 1839 and sometime between 1841/1842, Susan married Henry H. Hansel.

Henry was born around 1804/1805 in Lincoln Co., North Carolina son of William & Elizabeth (**McGINNIS**) Hansel of Lincoln Co., NC.²⁴³

Henry Hansel's first marriage was to 1st Jane (**COBLE**) on 7 July 1827²⁴⁴ in Lincoln Co., NC. Some researcher's think Jane's parents were; Eli & Rebecca (**TURNER**) Coble.

Henry's age 20/29 shows up in the 1830 census²⁴⁵ of Lincoln Co., NC with Jane 30/39 and two sons 4 & under.

However, we cannot find him in the 1840 census as of this date. Something happened to Jane and the boys because it appears Henry moved to Crawford Co., MO alone.

Sometime after 1840, it appears he arrived in Crawford or Washington County, Missouri and married Susan A. (**PRATT**). The marriage record is missing, however we know the first child was born 1842/1843.

One problem this has produced; myself and other researchers do not know when Henry Hansel arrived in Missouri or where he married Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**).

²⁴² Two individuals, Byron Nelson and Linda Hansell, donated much of the Hansel Family information and we would like to thank them for their contributions.

²⁴³ An excellent book about this Hansel family is, "Hansel Family Heritage", by Joyce Joy Handsel (1985) 125 Devine Street, Starkley, NC 28164

²⁴⁴ Marriage: Lincoln Co., NC

²⁴⁵ Census: 1830 Lincoln, North Carolina, United States, page 230a, after 1 June 1830

HANSEL, Henry 2-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 4 & under [unknown son]; 4 & under [unknown son]; 20-29 [Henry Sr. age 26]

free white females 30-39 [Jane age]

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Since the Pratt's we know were Methodist, then this marriage record is most likely in a journal or notebook of some Methodist preacher's papers, unrecorded.

At the time of the marriage, Henry was 18 years older than Susan. Susan was between 18/22 years of age.

Some researchers think they may have been married prior to the 1840 census. This hypothesis is in error for several reasons.

- Susan is listed with her parents, Henry & Nancy in the 1840 census as age 15/19. Later census records states she was actually age 17/18.
- Had she been married, her husband Henry would have been listed with her in a separate home under the surname Hansel or there would have been a separate male listed in the Pratt household age 35/36 (Henry Hansell's age), which there was none.
- Their firstborn, John W. Hansel was born 1 July 1843 according to his headstone. This puts his conception date around 1 October 1842 give or take a few months.
- Henry Hansel is not listed in the 1840 Missouri census. Therefore, we don't know where he was.

Consequently the above evidence suggests the marriage took place after the census between 1840 and 1842.

The Hansels lived all their days in the Crawford County area and had a large family. Henry bought some land in 1856 in Boone Township, Crawford County, MO.²⁴⁶

Henry Sr. died sometime between 1870/1880 near Carter Creek at New Rock Church in Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO. Susan died 22 December 1881 at the home of her son, John W. Hansel²⁴⁷.

They are both supposed to be buried at New Rock Cemetery, Crawford Co., MO. however; there are no markers or headstones.

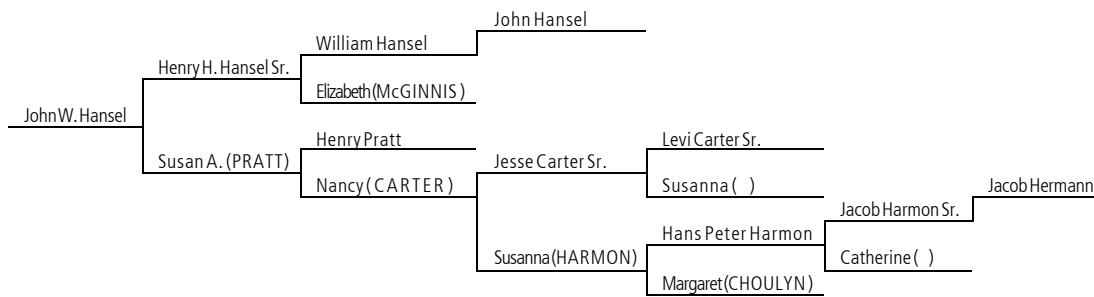
²⁴⁶ Deed: St. Louis Land Office 1856 #216

²⁴⁷ Hansell, "Mother" died of pneumonia, Dec 22, 1881 at home of her son John Hansell, near Rock Church, Sullivan Circuit, Crawford Co., Mo. She was born in Green Co., Tenn., Aug 4, 1822; to Crawford Co., Mo. in 1839. By D.F.Renfro (1-18-1882)

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CHILDREN OF HENRY H. & SUSAN A. (PRATT) HANSEL



John W. Hansel born 1 July 1843 in Crawford Co., MO. and on 28 Jan 1869²⁴⁸ he married Mary E. (**CARTER**), born 18 Dec 1841/42 in Bradley Co., TN to Rev. Valentine S. & Maleta (**EPPERSON**) Carter.

At this time the parentage of Valentine Carter is unknown. He was born in Tennessee and lived in Bradley County until they moved to Crawford Co., MO in 1859. Maleta (**EPPERSON**) is the daughter of Jesse & Rebecca (**HESTER**) Epperson of Bradley Co., TN.

John W. Hansel was a farmer. A little after their marriage John & Mary moved to Maries Co., MO. John's brother, Henry was living with them in the 1870 census. John was working for the John Mooreland family.

After a short stint, they moved back to Crawford County before 1880 most likely after the death of his father, Henry H. Hansel Sr.

We know he was living near Rock Church near Sullivan, Crawford Co., MO when his mother died in 1881. This is recorded in her obituary.

Sometime between 1881 and 1892 he moved to Tarrant Co., Texas.

Then he moved to Marlow, Stephens Co., Oklahoma by 1910.

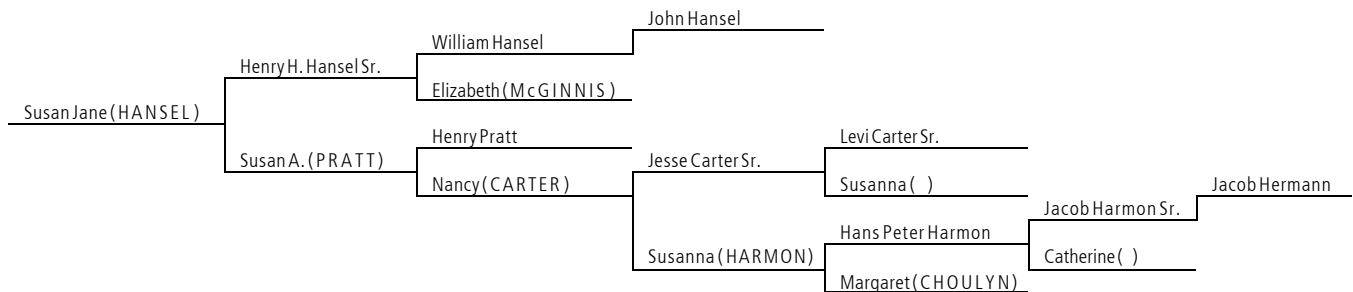
John died 15 Feb 1923 and Mary died 16 Jan 1917. Both are buried at the Marlow Cemetery, Stephens Co., OK.

Children of John W. & Mary E. (**CARTER**) Hansel: Willis Bascom married Flora Lee (**COLE**), Elizabeth Jennie married Joseph "Joe" Azal Howard, male Hansel, Lois Audrey married Lee Walter Lewis

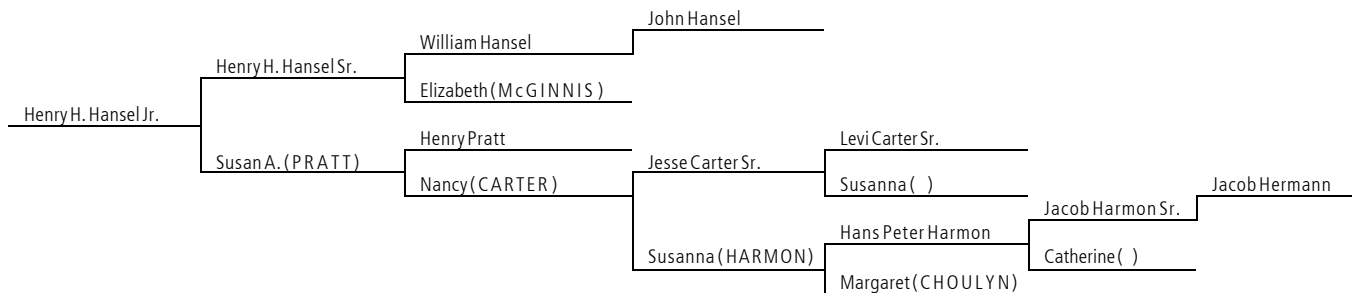
²⁴⁸ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, Marriage Book "B", page 278: John Hansel and Mary E. (**CARTER**) were married 28 Jan 1869; she was the daughter of Valentine S. Carter and Maleta (**EPPERSON**).

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Susan Jane (HANSEL) was born 19 Apr 1846 and died 15 Dec 1858 in Crawford Co., MO. She is buried at the New Rock Cemetery, Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO.



Henry H. Hansel Jr. was born Dec 1848 and on 5 Aug 1870 he married 1st Nancy Jane "Jemima" (**BRADSHAW**) born Feb 1853, daughter of James M.E. & Nancy (**BROWN**) Bradshaw of Maries Co., MO.

Henry was living with his brother, John in Johnson Twsp., Maries County, near Lanes Prairie and shortly after the census was taken, he and Nancy Jane "Jemima" (**BRADSHAW**) were married 5 Aug 1870.²⁴⁹

They moved to Washington County between 1870/1880, and moved to Franklin County between 1880/1900. Sometime between 1900/1907, Nancy died.

Henry married on 21 Mar 1907²⁵⁰ widow 2nd Nancy Jane "Jennie" (**MOORE**) of Cadet, Union Twsp., Washington County, MO. Nancy married 1st James Dunlap in 1866 in Marion Co., Illinois. James died 1900/1907. Henry H. Hansel Jr. died 1907-1910 near Cadet, Union Twp, Washington, Missouri.

Children of Henry H. & 1st Nancy J. (**BRADSHAW**) Hansel Jr.: Rosa Ann "Rosie" married Andrew Peter Frederickson, Adolphus H. "Adolf" "Avery" married 1st Sarah E. (**NEFF**) 2nd Etta "Ettie" Mae (**STROUP**), Joseph Henry "Red Henry" married Maranda Ethel (**LEWIS**), Gilbert Lee "Lee" Sr. married Frances Clementine (**STROUP**), William Edward "Ed" married Julia Blow (**WILLIAMS**), and Ethel Jane married Lytle Edward Partney Masson.

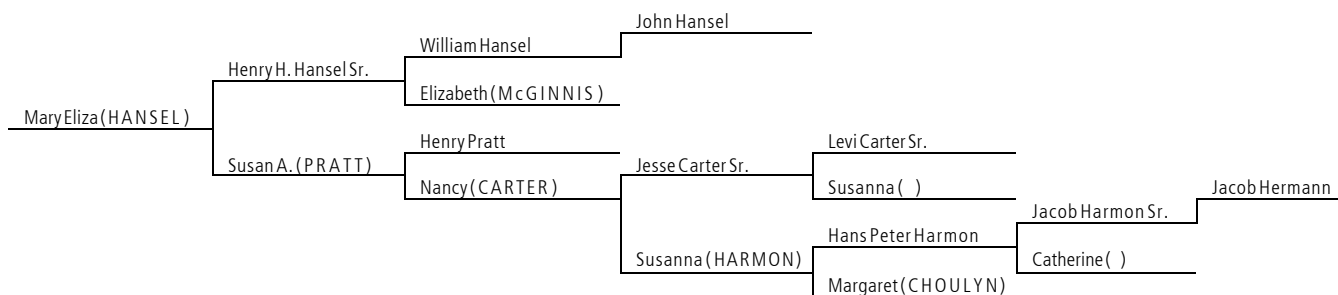
²⁴⁹ Marriage: Maries Co., MO., Marriage Book "A", 1868/1881, Henry H. Hansel and Nancy G. (**BRADSHAW**) were married 5 Aug 1870.

²⁵⁰ Marriage: Washington Co., MO., Marriage Book 1904/1911, Page 157: Henry Hansel of Cadet married widow Mrs. A. J. Dunlap of Cadet 21 Mar 1907.

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Children of Henry H. & 2nd Nancy Jane "Jennie" (MOORE) Dunlap Hansel Jr.: No children



Mary Eliza (HANSEL) was born 5 Sep 1850 and on 23 Dec 1877²⁵¹ she married William J. Thornhill born Apr 1847 in Franklin County to William A. & Sarah Ann (JONES) Thornhill.

William A. Thornhill was from Virginia and came to Franklin County between 1830/1839 where he married his first wife, 1st Sarah Ann (JONES) on 22 Aug 1839²⁵². She is the daughter of John & Mary (THORNHILL) Jones from Virginia. Sarah was born 1823 and died 1850/1853.

William A. married his second wife, 2nd Sarah Ann (MURPHY) on 20 Jan 1853²⁵³. She was born 1833 in Virginia. William A. died 1862/1863 and his will has been probated in Franklin County.

William J's first wife was 1st Sarah "Sis" M. (ISGRIGGS) born 1850 to John & Caroline (DEAVER) Isgriggs. William and Sarah "Sis" M. (ISGRIGGS) were married 30 Nov 1869.²⁵⁴ Sarah died between 1876/1877.

William J's, 2nd wife, Mary Eliza (HANSEL) died 15 Jan 1935. Mary is buried with William J. in the New Rock Cemetery, Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO.

Children of William A. & 1st Sarah Ann (JONES) Thornhill: John Tyler married 1st Mahala (LEWIS), 2nd Mary C. (), William J. married 1st Sarah "Sis" M. (ISGRIGGS), 2nd Mary Eliza (HANSEL) and Edward.

Children of William A. & 2nd Sarah Ann (MURPHY) Thornhill: Elisha H. married Mary Elizabeth (PERKINS), Bryant Alexander married Emma G. (GILLESPIE), Charles Fremont married Elizabeth Ann "Lizzie" (PRATHER), Mary and Winfield Scott married Annie F. (COLE).

Children of William J. & 1st Sarah "Sis" (ISGRIGGS) Thornhill: Alice, Walter A., and Minnie Maude married Henry King

Children of William J. & 2nd Mary Eliza (HANSEL) Thornhill: Pearl M. married 1st William Harrison "Walter" Cavenah 2nd Charles W. Mathis and John Franklin married Kathryn S. (FARRIS).

²⁵¹ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, William Thornhill and Mary Eliza Hansel were married 23 Dec 1877.

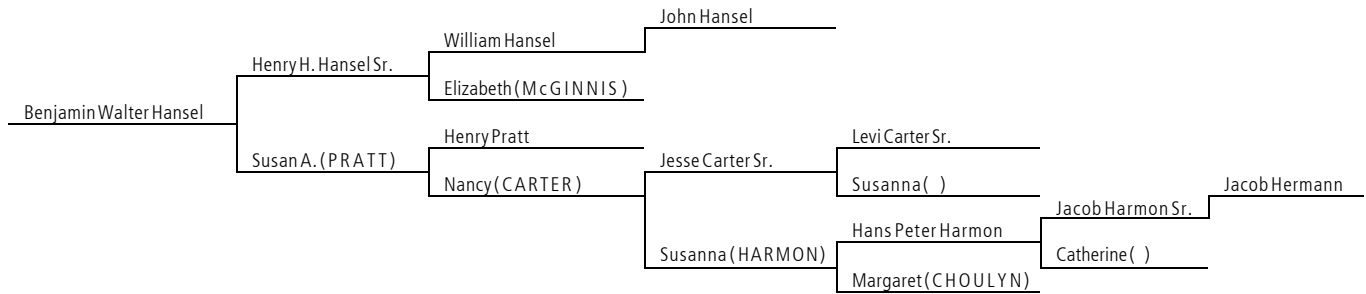
²⁵² Marriage: Franklin Co., MO., Marriage Book "A", Page 154. 22 Aug 1839

²⁵³ Marriage: Franklin Co., MO., Marriage Book "B", Page 179. 20 Jan 1853.

²⁵⁴ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO Marriage Book "B", Page 304 : William Thornhill and Sarah Isgrig were married 30 Nov 1869.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

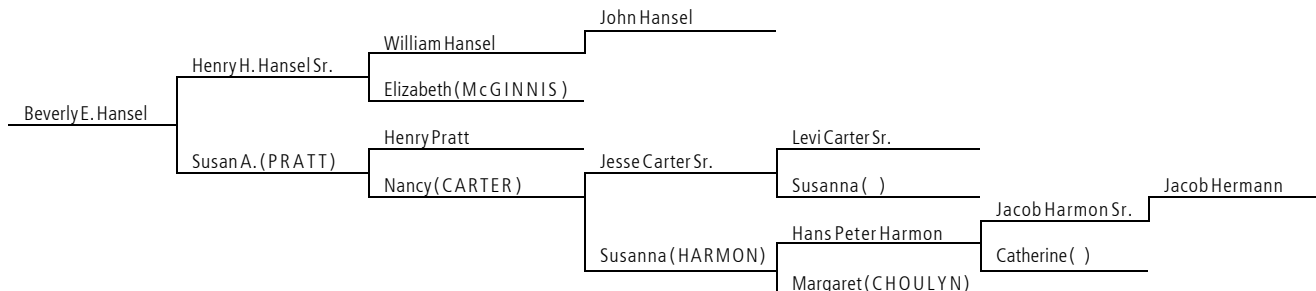
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Benjamin “Ben” Walter Hansel was born 2 Nov 1852 in Crawford County and around 1876/1877 he married 1st Sarah A. (**MERCILLE**) born 2 Jul 1854 to Joseph & Sarah (**MANESS**) Mercille.²⁵⁵

After marriage they moved to Big River Twsp., Jefferson Co., MO. Between 1880/1900 they moved to Franklin County. Sarah died 25 Apr 1922 and Benjamin married a 2nd Mary E. () circa 1922-1930 no children. Ben died 7 July 1931. Ben and Sarah are buried in the Mt. Zion Baptist Cemetery, Central Twsp., Franklin Co., MO with several of their children.

Children of Benjamin Walter & Sarah A. (**MERCILLE**) Hansel: Anna, Emma Jane married 1st Jesse Woodcock, 2nd William Frederick Stuhlmann, 3rd Frank Graham, William Price married 1st Emma A. (**TILLEY**), 2nd Anna "Annie" Catherine (**BROWN**); John Henry married Frances (), Fannie D., Bertha D. married Thomas Arthur "Burris" Girardier, Grace M. married James Moss and Eugene Benjamin "Gene" married Clara Bell (**HULTS**).



Beverly E. Hansel was born 1855 in Crawford County. On 26 May 1880²⁵⁶ he married Sophrina Jane “Jennie” (**FITZWATERS**) born 15 Jun 1837 to John H. “Jack” & Elizabeth “Aunt Bet” (**ISGRIGGS**) Fitzwaters.

John Fitzwaters came from Harrison Co., KY and arrived in Washington Co., MO between 1830/1834. His parents were John & Charity (**HUMBLE**) Fitzwaters. Elizabeth (**ISGRIGGS**) is the daughter of Henry L. & Sarah (**LEMON**) Isgrig from Maryland via Kentucky.

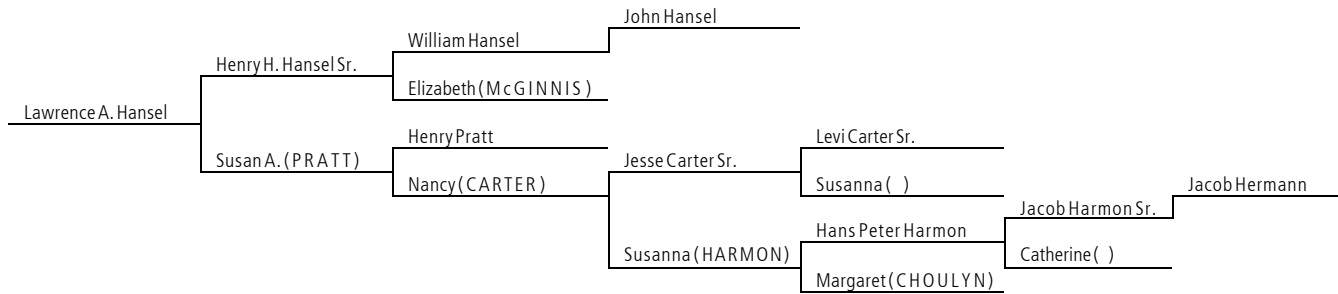
After marriage, Beverly and Jennie lived in Crawford County, by 1910 had moved to Sullivan, Franklin County. Unknown what happened to them or where they are buried. Jennie mentions a child in the 1910 census but none of the family descendants know anything about this child.

²⁵⁵Information about Benjamin Walter Hansel's family donated by Linda Hansel.

²⁵⁶ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO. Marriage Book C, Page 296. 26 May 1880

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

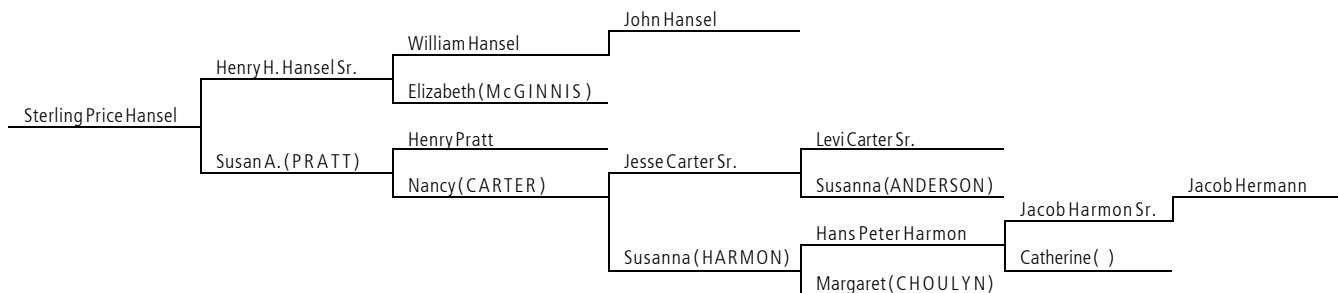
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Lawrence A. "Larry" Hansel was born 21 July 1856 in Crawford County and 1875/1880 he married 1st Susan E. () born 1853 in Missouri, died 1880-1883. He married 2nd Sarah E. (**ODLE**) Jones on 11 October 1883 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri. She was born Mar 1853 in Illinois and died 1908-1910.

Larry shows up as a widower in the 1910 census with his children. He moves to Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO for the 1920 census. He died on 12 December 1929 at 619 Benton Street, Valley Park, Bonhomme Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri and is buried at Valley Park Cemetery, Valley Park, Bonhomme Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri.

Children of Lawrence A. "Larry" & Sarah E. (**ODLE**) Jones Hansel: Stella A., Gertrude "Gertie" V. married Frank Thomas Fitzsimmons, Jessie N., Virgil M. married Ethel (**LINDSEY**), Gladys Elvira married George Thomas Palmer and Agnes.



Sterling Price Hansel was born 28 Jul 1860 and on 26 May 1897²⁵⁷ he married 1st Lillian F. (**FUDGE**) born 18 Aug 1874, Jersey City, Hudson Co., NJ to George & Rebecca (**SAMUELS**) Fudge. George Fudge was from Ilchester, England.

Lillie was staying with her parents in the 1900 census before her death on 15 Sep 1903. She died in Rolla, Phelps Co., MO probably at a hospital. She is buried with her parents and her daughter in the New Rock Cemetery, Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO.

After the death of Lillie, Price moved to Sullivan and married 2nd Alma Cornelia (**VAN NORT**) on 4 November 1914 in Clayton, Central Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri. Price died 27 Oct 1935 and Alma died 24 October 1969 both are buried at the Sullivan Community I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

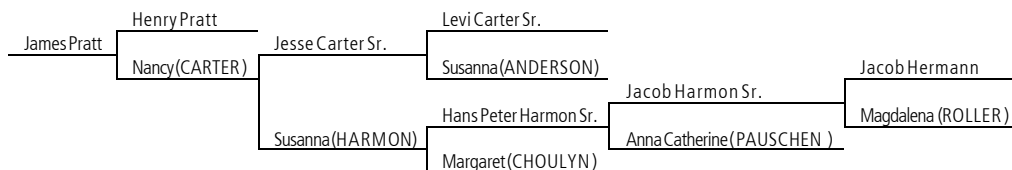
Children of Sterling Price & 1st Lillian "Lillie" F. (**FUDGE**) Hansel: Amy Clair.

²⁵⁷ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO. Marriage Book E, Page 446. (26 May 1897).

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Children of Sterling Price & 2nd Alma Cornelia (**VAN NORT**) Hansel: Frances Cornelia married 1st _____ Gibson, 2nd Hadley Irl Ballard; Lucille Alma married Otto Benjamin "Ben" Vondera; Walter William "Bill" married Linda A. (**STRANDBERGH**)



JAMES PRATT AND CATHERINE (KIMBERLIN) FAMILY

James Pratt was born 30 Sep 1822 according to the headstone, probably in Greene Co., TN. When his family moved to Crawford County in 1939, the Pratts became acquainted with the Rinard Kimberlin Family.

Rinard Kimberlin was named after his great grandmother's maiden name Rhinehart. However, the slang became Rinard pronounced Ri-nard.

Rinard Kimberlin was born 1800/1806 in Botetourt Co., VA to James & Nancy (**HUMPHRIES**) Kimberling. Between 1825/1828 he married Frances Jane (**PETERS**) daughter of John Jacob Jr. & Sally (**CLAY**) Peters from neighboring Giles Co., now West Virginia.

After marriage, Rinard and Frances moved to Franklin Co., MO by 22 Sep 1828²⁵⁸ and bought 6 acres for \$400. By the 1830²⁵⁹ census he had moved into the Meramec Twsp. of Washington Co., MO.

On 21 Sep 1840, his brother-in-law, John Peters III and wife, Mary "Polly" E. (**HULSEY**) Boring sold him 40 acres off Dry Branch Creek in Richwoods Twsp., Washington Co., MO.

By the 1840 census²⁶⁰ he settled his family in the Richwoods Twsp., Washington Co., MO where he became acquainted with the Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt family.

Sometime during this period, his daughter, Catherine and Henry Pratt's son, James began a courtship and around 1847/1848 they were married.²⁶¹

Catherine Kimberlin was born Aug 1828 at Meramec Twsp., Washington Co., MO.

On the 6th of Feb 1854,²⁶² Firmin Desloge sold to Rinard Kimberlin 105 acres off of Harris Branch Creek what became known as Anthonies Mill at the junction of Hiway N and Hiway W.

Nineteen days later, on Feb 25th²⁶³ Rinard sold to his son-in-law, James Pratt, 24 acres next door to him at the same location.

²⁵⁸ Deed: Franklin Co., Mo., Deed Book A, Page 433, 22 Sep 1828.

²⁵⁹ Census: 1830 Washington Co., MO, Meramec Twsp., Page 71, house 3.

²⁶⁰ Census: 1840 Washington Co., MO, Richwoods Twsp., Page 196.

²⁶¹ Date and location unknown.

²⁶² Deed: Washington Co., MO. Deed Book H, Page 519, 6 Feb 1854.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

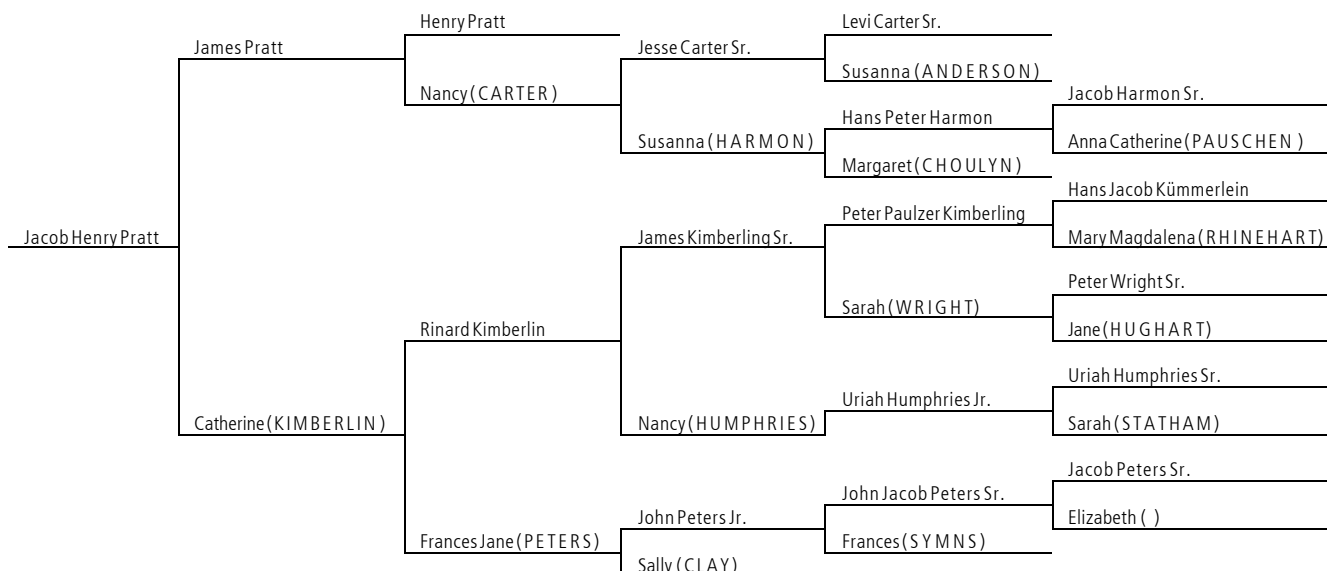
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Up until recently, there was an old plank barn on Harris Creek that belonged to James Pratt. James & Catherine lived all their lives in the Anthonies Mill area. James died 25 Jun 1874 and left a will. His widow Catherine married 2nd widower, Alexander Blanton Sr. on 17 Oct 1875.²⁶⁴

On 3 Apr 1876²⁶⁵, Catherine sold the homestead to her son Jacob Henry who was also the executor of his father's estate. Catherine died 28 March 1912 near Anthonies Mill.

James²⁶⁶ & Catherine are buried in the Kimberlin Cemetery at Hiway N & Hiway W.²⁶⁷

CHILDREN OF JAMES & CATHERINE (KIMBERLIN) PRATT



Jacob Henry Pratt was born 29 November 1848 and died 26 April 1910 in Dayton Twp, Cass, Missouri. On 17 Jun 1869²⁶⁸ he married Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" (**PINSON**) born 28 Jan 1844 and died 16 June 1933, daughter of Joseph W. & Mary (**WILLETT**) Pinson.

Joseph Pinson was born 16 May 1789 in Laurens Co., South Carolina and moved to Washington Co., MO between 1830/1831. Mary (**WILLETT**) was born 16 March 1809 in Washington County, Kentucky and died 3 April 1899 in Harper, Harper, Kansas. Joseph settled in Washington County and died 7 Apr 1876 and is buried in the Swan Cemetery, Washington Co., MO.

After marriage, Jacob & Sarah remained in Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO until the 1900 census where they show up in Sherman Twsp., Cass County, Missouri. After Jacob's death in 1910, Sarah remained in Cass County until her death. Both are buried at Dayton Cemetery, Dayton Twp, Cass, Missouri.

²⁶³ Deed: Washington Co., MO, Deed Book I, Page 579, 25 Feb 1854.

²⁶⁴ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, Book "C", Page 183.

²⁶⁵ Deed: Washington Co., MO., Deed Book "X", Page 297

²⁶⁶ James' tombstone was still standing in 1992.

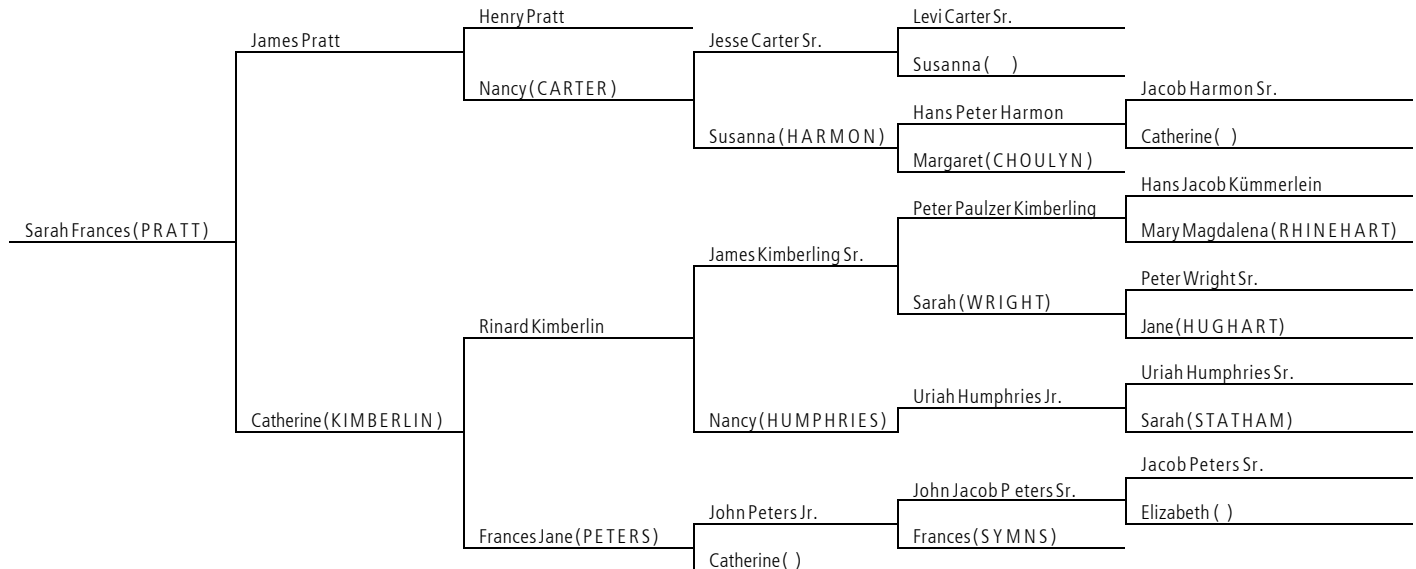
²⁶⁷ More details on this family: "Pratt Progenitor Papers Vol 1, Henry Pratt & Descendants" by Floyd Thomas Pratt

²⁶⁸ Marriage: Washington Co., MO, Marriage Book "C" Page 153.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Children of Jacob Henry & Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" (PINSON) Pratt: William H. married 1st Susan W. (BONE) 2nd Leora Jane (CENTER), Charles Edward married 1st Cecil May (COFFEY), 2nd Nora "Dora" A. (STEGER) Calhoun, Lilly B., Maggie C., Carrick Nicholas married Elsie May (WILLIAMS).



Sarah Frances "Fanny" (PRATT) according to her headstone was born 16 Jan 1852 near Anthonies Mill, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri. Between 1875/1877 she married John Milton Harmon²⁶⁹ born 10 May 1852 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri son of Jacob Isaac (1827-1903) & 2nd spouse Eliza W. (1831-1865) (JOHNSON) Harmon.

Jacob Isaac Harmon was from Pendleton Co., VA and settled in Crawford Co., MO between 1848/1849.

After marriage, John and Sarah lived in Crawford Co. and after the 1880 census moved to Washington Co. and settled on White's Creek across from James Pratt's family at Anthonies Mill.

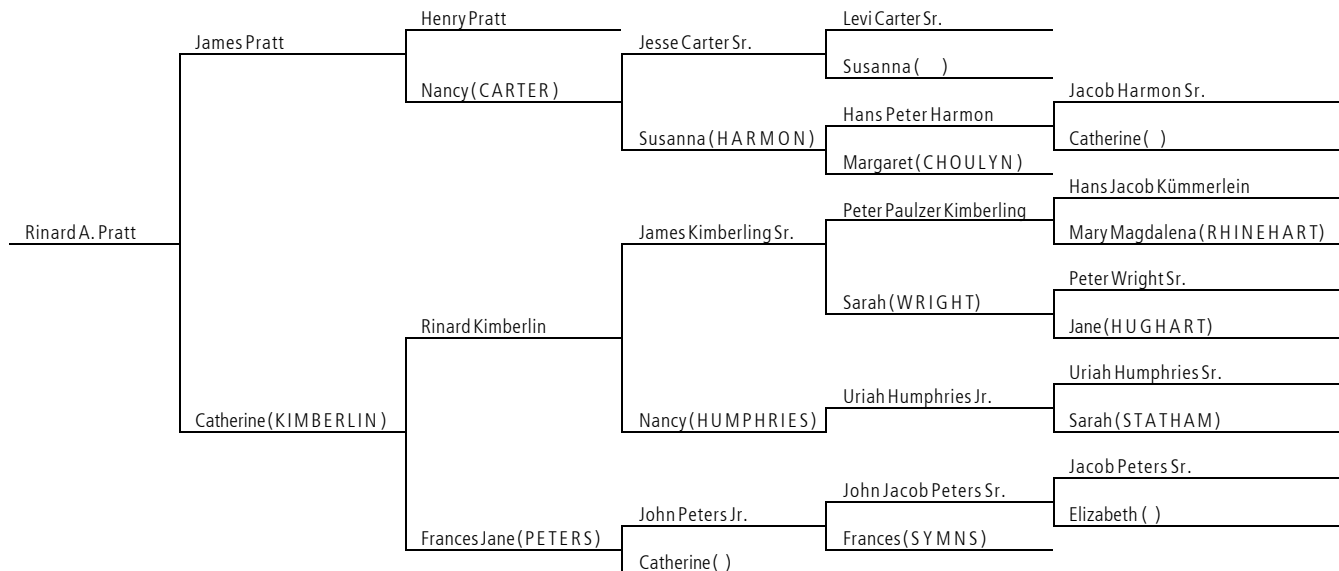
John died 5 Nov 1915 in Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri, and Sarah died 13 Jun 1934 same place and both are buried in the Harmon Cemetery off White's Creek on Hiway N.

Children of John Milton & Sarah Frances (PRATT) Harmon: Della May married Walter Franklin Isgriggs and Effie Catherine married Thomas Earl Mattox.

²⁶⁹ Mona Hagy-Rose donated much of the Harmon material for this family.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Rinard A. Pratt born Jul 1856 and died between 12 June 1900²⁷⁰ and date will probated of August 10, 1901 in Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

On 13 Jan 1881²⁷¹, he married 1st Julia Ann (**SCOTT**) born 26 Jan 1862 near Cuba Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri, and daughter of Joseph C. & Hester Ann (**MUDD**) Scott.

Julia may have died in childbirth; her headstone states she died 25 Jun 1885. No known children. She is buried at the Kimberlin Cemetery, Anthonies Mill, Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO.

On 4 Dec 1898²⁷² Rinard married 2nd Theodosia "Dosia" Bell (**GRUELL**). Dosia was born Apr 1880 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and daughter of John Richard & Mary Marson "Polly" (**PINSON**) Gruell.

After Rinard's death, Dosia married on 6 Nov 1901²⁷³, 2nd Albert James Dixon who was born 23 June 1880 near Vilander, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri son of Alfred and Mary E. (**GREENWOOD**) Dixon. They divorced. Albert died 15 February 1967 in Elk City, Beckham, Oklahoma.

Dosia married 3rd Alvin Sterling Gardner on 4 October 1905 in Clayton, Central Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri son of Joseph William & Mahulda Jennie (**HOLMES**) Gardner.

Children of Rinard A. & Theodosia "Dosia" Bell (**GRUELL**) Pratt: Irene and Mary C.

Children of Albert J. & Theodosia "Dosia" Bell (**GRUELL**) Pratt Dixon: none

Children of Alvin Sterling & Theodosia "Dosia" Bell (**GRUELL**) Pratt Dixon Gardner: Edith E., Helen C.

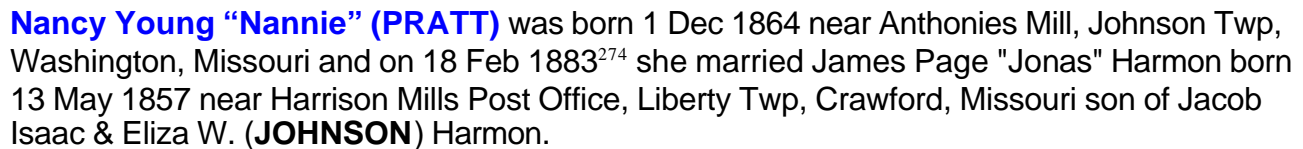
²⁷⁰ Census: 1900 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Twp, taken 12 Jun 1900, Page 6, House 100.

²⁷¹ Marriage: Washington Co., MO. Book "C", page 402

²⁷² Marriage: Washington Co., MO, Marriage Book "3", Page 106.

²⁷³ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO Marriage Book "F", Page 260.

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It appears Jonas Page and Nannie lived all their lives in Crawford Co., MO.

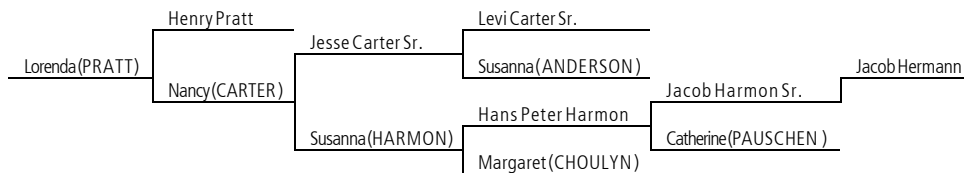
Nancy "Nannie" (**PRATT**) Harmon died 3 Nov 1945 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and is buried at I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twsp., Franklin Co., MO.

Children of Jonas Page & Nancy "Nannie" Young (**PRATT**) Harmon: John B. married Martha Elizabeth (**COFFMAN**), Stephen H. married Althea Mae (**BLUNT**), Carrie Elizabeth "Lizzie" married Charles Robert "Bob" Warfield, Elmer I. married Lelia C. (**POND**) Bressler, Thaddeus married Nellie Lenora (**IDEN**), Ava E. married Sydney Rayfied Sappington, Raymond Oswald married Gertrude (____), Oral R married Edna Mae (**STEPHENS**).

206 *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I., 4000 20th Street West Apt 113, Bradenton, FL 34205-5057 941.209.1701 floydpratt59@yahoo.com*

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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LORENDIA (PRATT) AND SAMUEL CAMPBELL FAMILY

Lorenda (PRATT) was born in Regiment 67, Monroe, Tennessee on 8 September 1828 and died in Smith Twp, Laclede, Missouri on 27 January 1888.

On 16 March 1848²⁷⁵ she married 1st Samuel Campbell. Samuel Campbell is the son of David & Bathsheba (**CARTER**) Campbell from Greene Co., TN.

David Campbell was born in 1791 in North Carolina and on 5 Mar 1818 he married Bathsheba (**CARTER**) born 1794 in Greene County, TN daughter of John & Mary Elizabeth (**ALLEN**) Carter Jr.

Lorenda's grandfather, Jesse Carter Sr. and John Carter Jr. were first cousins.

David Campbell lived in close proximity to James & Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Lynch in Greene County.

It appears the Lynch's left Greene County 1838/1839 and traveled the "Trail of Tears" settling in Pulaski County, MO. I already discussed the Lynch's reason for leaving because Elizabeth (**PRATT**) was of Indian ancestry.

The Campbells moved to Missouri between 1845/1850. Both the Lynch's and the Campbells settled a few doors from each other in Pulaski County, MO.

Apparently, David's son, Samuel knew Lorenda (**PRATT**) from Greene County, Tennessee and when his parents passed through Crawford or Washington County, Missouri, he visited with the Pratts and a few years later, he married Lorenda in 1848.

You would think that Samuel and Lorenda would appear in the 1850 census of Crawford County. Not only are they not there in Crawford they are not in the Jefferson, Gasconade, Ste. Genevieve, Washington, Franklin, St. Francois or Pulaski counties.

However, sometime between 1848 and 1860 they moved to Pulaski County and are living next to *his* mother, Bathsheba (**CARTER**) Campbell in Pulaski County in the 1860 census.

Pulaski County is one of those black holes of genealogy. Very few records exist due to a fire, which destroyed, marriage, deeds, court, birth and death records in 1905. Therefore, if your people came from Pulaski County, your best bet is the census records and old newspapers.

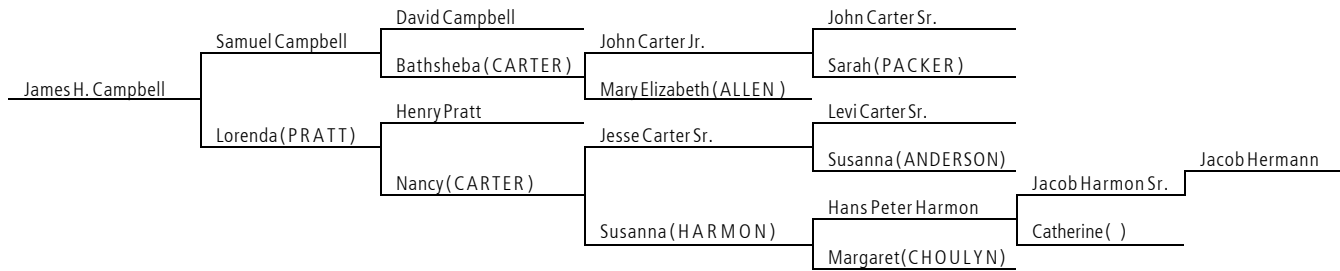
Samuel Campbell died between 1864 when his youngest child (Mary C.) was conceived and 1868 when his widow, Lorenda (**PRATT**) Campbell married 2nd Rev. Ira Spencer Hull.

²⁷⁵ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO, Book "A", page 151 (16 Mar 1848).

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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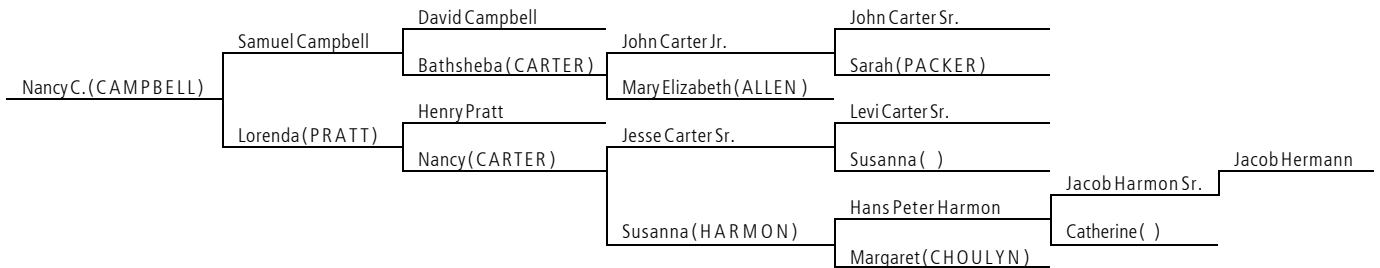
CHILDREN OF SAMUEL & LORENDIA (PRATT) CAMPBELL



James H. Campbell was born 1849 in Missouri. Until I can find where his parents were in the 1850 census I am not sure in what county he was born.

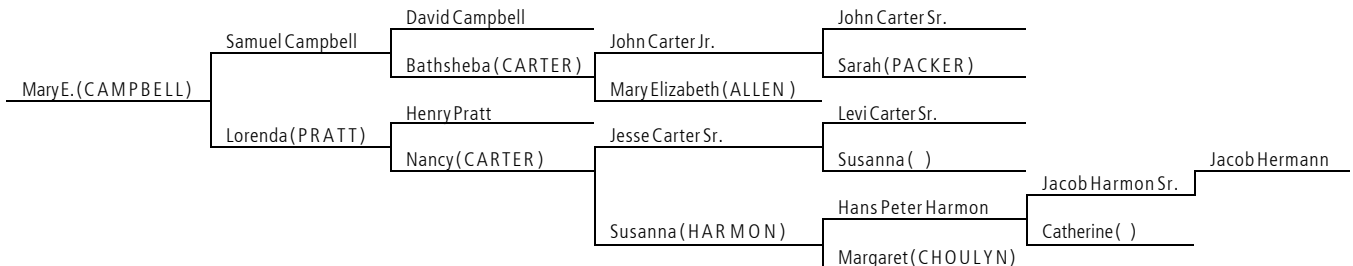
He moved with his parents to Pulaski Co., MO and is listed in the 1860 census. After his mother remarried he moved with Ira & Lorenda to Laclede Co., MO and is living next door in the 1870 census at the age of 21.

There is a James Campbell in the 1880 census of Laclede County with a wife, Mary age 32 and children, Eliza age 11, Sarah M. age 9, Mary C. age 7, Rutha M. age 5 and Elra E. age 2. Unknown if this is James H. Campbell, our subject.



Nancy C. (CAMPBELL) was born in 1851 in Missouri. Until I can find where her parents were in the 1850 census I am not sure what county she was born.

She moved with her parents to Pulaski Co., MO and is listed in the 1860 census. After her mother remarried she moved with Ira & Lorenda to Laclede Co., MO and is living next door in the 1870 census at the age of 19. Probably married between 1870/1880.

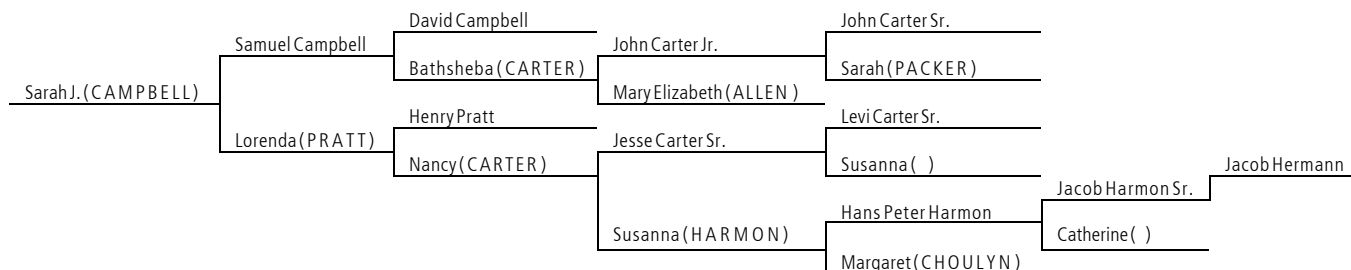


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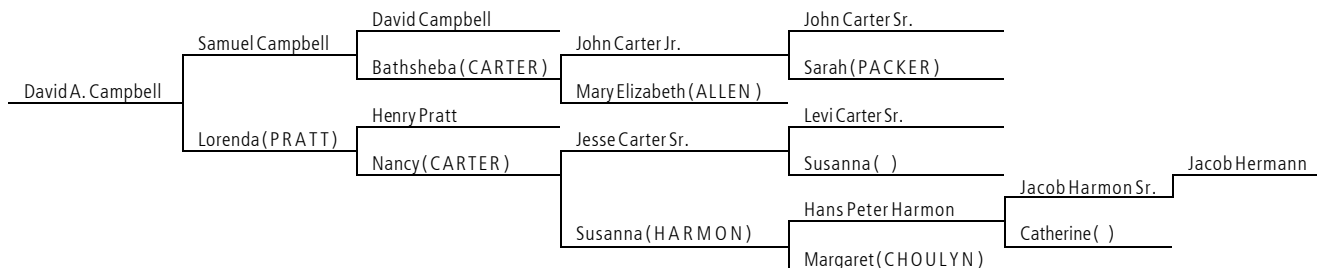
Mary E. (CAMPBELL) was born 1854 in Missouri. Until I can find where her parents were in the 1850 census I am not sure what county she was born. She moved with her parents to Pulaski Co., MO and is listed in the 1860 census. She may have died or married before the 1870 census.

A peculiar situation: her mother names another daughter, Mary C. in 1864.



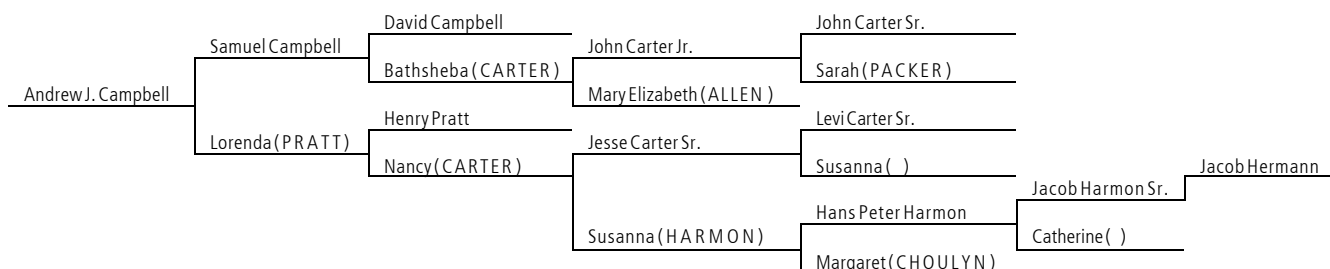
Sarah J. (CAMPBELL) was born 1857 in Missouri. Until I can find where her parents were in the 1850 census I am not sure what county she was born.

She moved with her parents to Pulaski Co., MO and is listed in the 1860 census. She may have married or died before the 1870 census.



David A. Campbell was born 1860 in Pulaski Co., MO. He moved with his parents to Pulaski Co., MO and is listed in the 1860 census. After his mother remarried he moved with Ira & Lorenda to Laclede Co., MO and is living next door in the 1870 census at the age of 11.

He is with his mother and shows up in the 1880 census as age 20.



HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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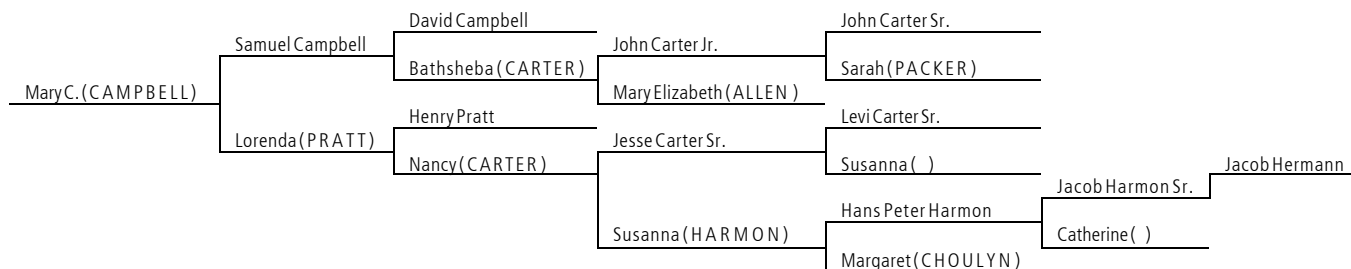
Andrew Jackson "Jack" Campbell was born near DeBruin Post Office, Twp 35 Range 13, Pulaski, Missouri on 7 November 1861. He died in Mayfield Twp, Laclede, Missouri, United States on 26 December 1936.

Andrew married on 29 December 1889 in Laclede, Missouri, 1st Eva "Evey" H. (**MARTIN**) born near Saybrook Post Office, Cheney's Grove Twp, McLean, Illinois daughter of Charles L. and Mary Jane (**YAZIE**) Martin. Evey died in Smith Twp, Laclede, Missouri on 3 April 1929.

Andrew married on 25 June 1930 in Laclede, Missouri 2nd Nina M. (**BRODEN**) Gresham born 18 December 1884 in Missouri died on 1 July 1978. She is buried with first husband Walter F. Gresham at High Point Cemetery, Montreal, Auglaize Twp, Camden, Missouri.

Andrew and Eva are buried at Stoutland Cemetery, Auglaize Twp, Laclede, Missouri.

Children of Andrew Jackson "Jack" and Eva "Evey" H. (**MARTIN**) Campbell: Rollin Arthur married 1st Florence (**RODGERS**), 2nd Lee (**SINGLETON**), Edith married Roy L. McShane, Iona married James L. Peters, Lenn H. married 1st Floye (**BURKE**), 2nd Ruth L. (**TURNER**), Esther M.



Mary C. (CAMPBELL) was born 1864 near DeBruin Post Office, Twp 35 Range 13, Pulaski, Missouri. She moved with his parents from Pulaski Co., MO and after her mother remarried she moved with Ira & Lorenda to Laclede Co., MO and is living next door in the 1870 census at the age of 6.

She is with her mother and shows up in the 1880 census as age 15. Probably married between 1880/1890.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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LORENDIA (PRATT) CAMPBELL AND REV. IRA SPENCER HULL FAMILY

Rev. Ira Spencer Hull was born 1836 in West Salem Twp, Mercer, Pennsylvania. Son of Orrin J. and Nancy (**FOULKE**) Hull from Connecticut and Pennsylvania respectively.

Ira Hull married 1st Cynthia "Cinchee" Catharine (**DOLLAR**) circa 1857. Daughter of James and Mahula (**CLINKENBERD**) Dollar from North Carolina and Tennessee. Unclear if they ever divorced but after the civil war it appears Ira never returned home. Cynthia died 1880/1900 and is buried in the Plum Creek Cemetery, Mirabile, Mirabile Twp, Caldwell, Missouri, United States.

Ira and 2nd Lorendia (**PRATT**) were married circa 1867-1868²⁷⁶ is based on the birth of their daughter, Minerva Frances (**HULL**), age 2 in the 1870 census.

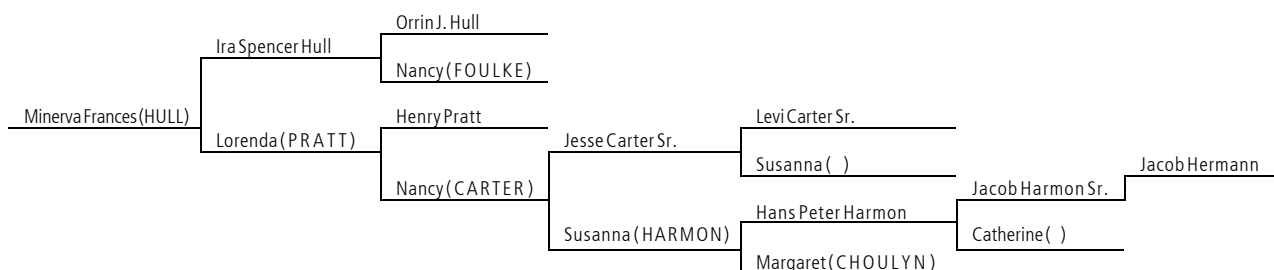
After Lorendia's marriage to Ira Hull, between 1864/1870 they moved from Pulaski County to Smith Township in Laclede County, MO. The 1870 census shows the Hulls living next door to her Campbell children.

Lorendia died in Smith Twp, Laclede, Missouri on 27 January 1888. She is buried in the Mayfield Cemetery, Mayfield Twp, Laclede, Missouri.

After the death of Lorendia, Rev. Ira Hull married 3rd divorced Didanes Diana (_____) Wilson on 14 June 1888 in Camden Co., MO. Diana 1st married Leander E. Wilson circa 1858-1859 and after the death of ira she married a _____ Conner before she died on 8 December 1928 at Eldridge Twp, Laclede, Missouri. Diana is buried in the Prosperine Cemetery, Spring Hollow Twp, Laclede, Missouri.

Rev. Ira Spencer Hull died on 17 March 1891 in Mayfield Twp, Laclede, Missouri and is buried in the Mayfield Cemetery, Mayfield Twp, Laclede, Missouri.

CHILDREN OF REV. IRA SPENCER & LORENDIA (PRATT) CAMPBELL HULL

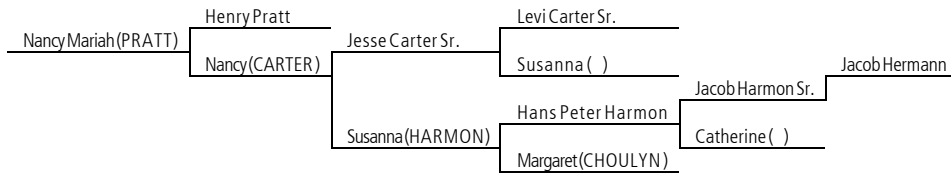


Minerva Frances (HULL) was born 13 February 1868 near Pine Creek Post Office, Smith Twp, Laclede, Missouri. On 19 October 1884 in Laclede, Missouri, she married James C. Burke born 13 March 1856 in Subdivision 20, Roane, Tennessee. Son of Albert and Martha W. (**MILLER**) Burke. Minerva died 14 August 1954 and James died 11 February 1929 both in Joplin, Mo. Both are buried in the Forest Park Cemetery, Joplin, Joplin Twp, Jasper, Missouri.

²⁷⁶ Checking Laclede County, MO found no marriage record of Lorenda Campbell and Ira S. Hull.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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NANCY MARIAH (PRATT) AND ALEXANDER A. BLANTON SR. FAMILY

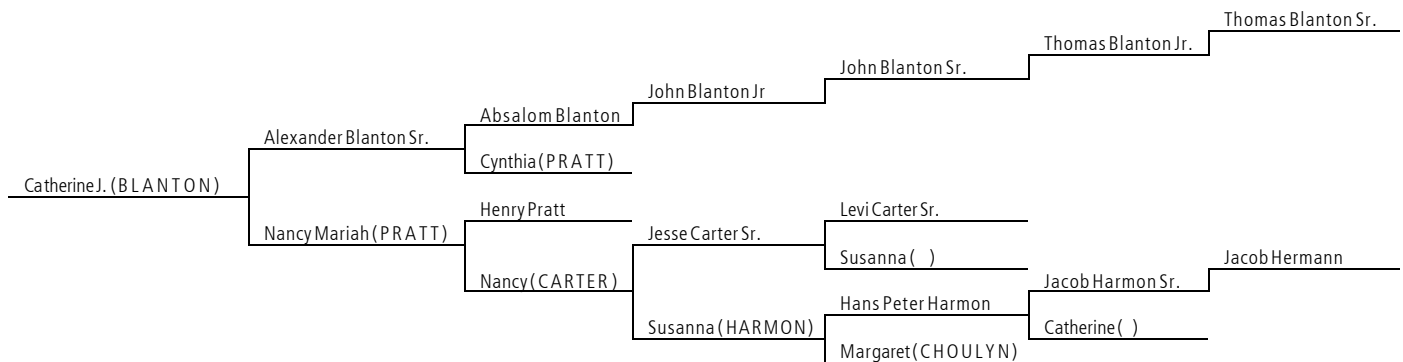
Nancy Mariah (PRATT) was born according to the headstone 10 July 1830. She was born in Monroe Co., TN. After moving to Missouri with her parents in 1838, she moved with her mother to Carter Creek, Crawford Co., MO close to her sister, Rebecca Susanna (**PRATT**) Hansel.

Nancy married Alexander A. Blanton Sr. on 14 Oct 1849.²⁷⁷ Alexander is the son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton and was born 11 Nov 1830 according to the family bible and died 3 Apr 1882. Over the next several decades they moved between Crawford and Washington counties.

Nancy died on 27 Jan 1873 and on 17 Oct 1875;²⁷⁸ widower Alexander married 2nd Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt, widow of James Pratt. No children.

Alexander and Nancy are buried in the Blanton Cemetery, Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. Both of their headstones were there in 1992.

CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER A. SR. & NANCY MARIAH (PRATT) BLANTON



Catherine "Kate" Jane (BLANTON) was born 28 July 1850 according to the family bible. On 5 March 1876, she married Charles "Charley" W. Boles born 7 December 1839 in Illinois to Frederick William & 1st wife () Boles from Ireland.²⁷⁹

After marriage Charles & Catherine moved to Franklin County and then by the 1920's to Sullivan. Catherine died 24 February 1922 and Charles died 29 November 1922 both in Prairie Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

²⁷⁷ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO., Book "A", Page 176.

²⁷⁸ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO., Book "C", Page 183

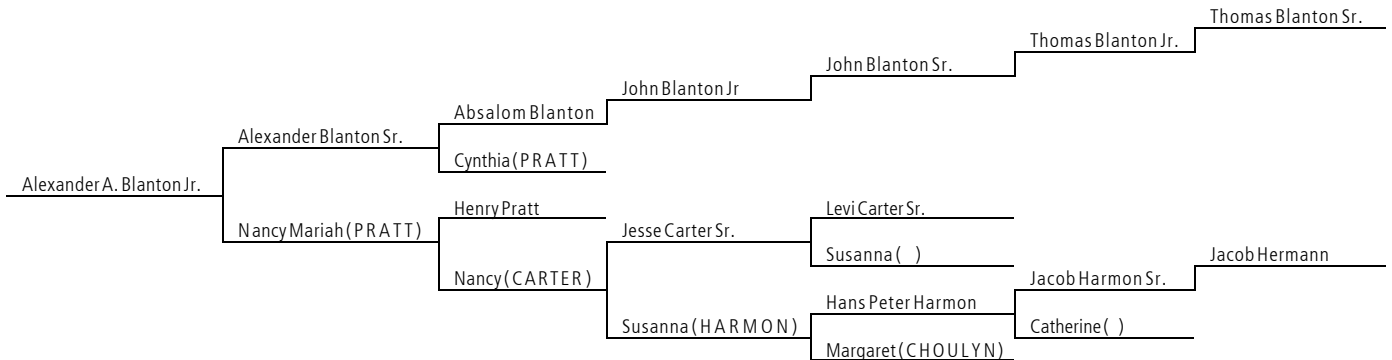
²⁷⁹ Census: 1910 Franklin Co., MO., Central Twsp., Page 171A, taken 20 & 21 Apr 1910, House 43:

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Both buried in Prospect Baptist Cemetery, Lonedell, Prairie Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

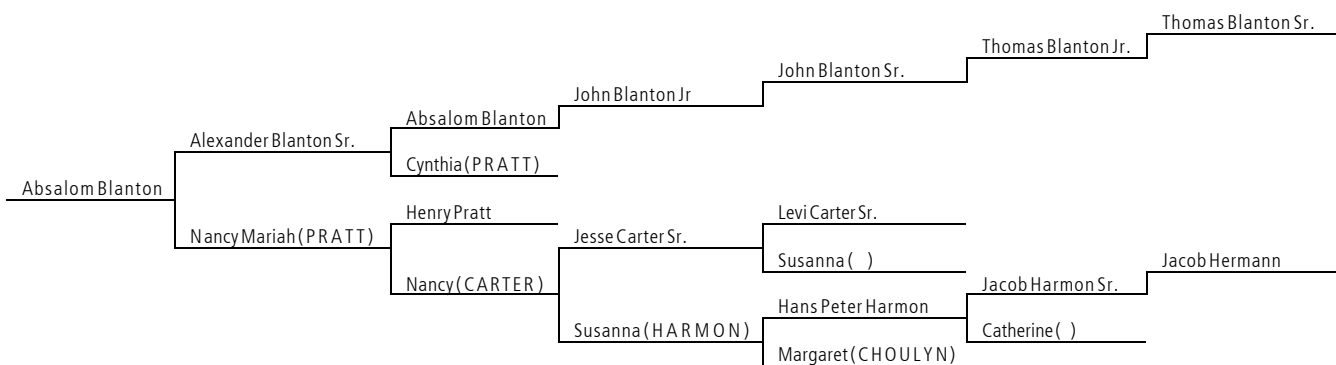
Children of Charles W. & Catherine Jane (**BLANTON**) Boles: Frances "Fannie" B. married William Jefferson "Jeff" Otto, Nancy "Nannie" Mae married John J. Cartwright, and Jessie L.



Alexander A. Blanton Jr. was born 31 May 1854²⁸⁰ and on 28 Sept 1890²⁸¹ he married Eliza Jane "Jenny" (**DACE**) born 18 Jun 1871 daughter of John Dennis & Sarah (**DAVIS**) Dace from Jefferson County.

After marriage, Alex and Jenny moved to Crawford County and lived there until his death on 23 Oct 1931. Jenny died 24 Feb 1953. Both are buried at Sullivan I.O.O.F Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of Alexander A. & Eliza Jane "Jenny" (**DACE**) Blanton Jr.: Rilla Ethel (**BLANTON**) married Harry Herman Graham Sr., Ralph McDonald Blanton Sr. married Annabell Alcey (**BATES**).



Absalom B. Blanton was born 2 April 1856 and on 18 March 1883 married Martha Ellen (**JACKSON**) Hayes born 17 December 1857 daughter of William Smith A. and Edith "Eda" Jane (**SIMMONS**) Jackson. Absalom died in Bourbon on 13 Jan 1933 Martha died 17 April 1933 and both are buried in Sullivan IOOF Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

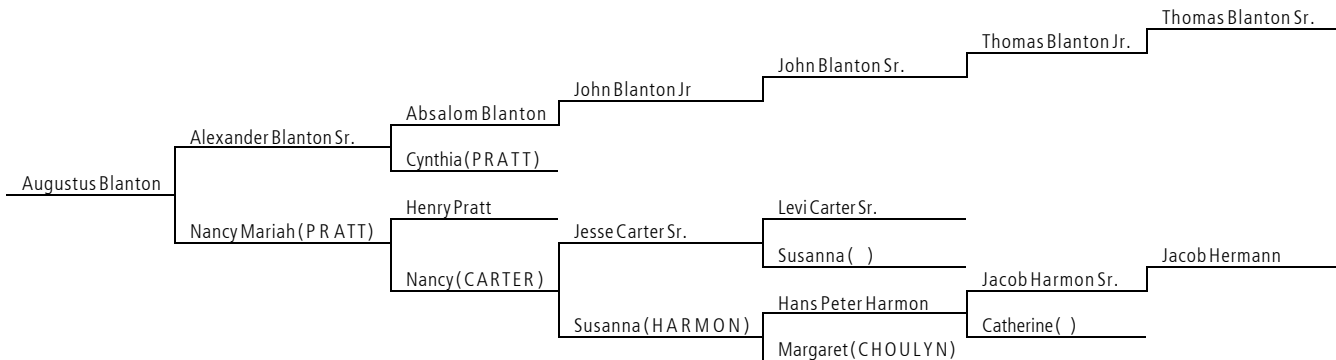
²⁸⁰ Tombstone inscriptions Sullivan I.O.O.F Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO

²⁸¹ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO. Book "E", Page 51

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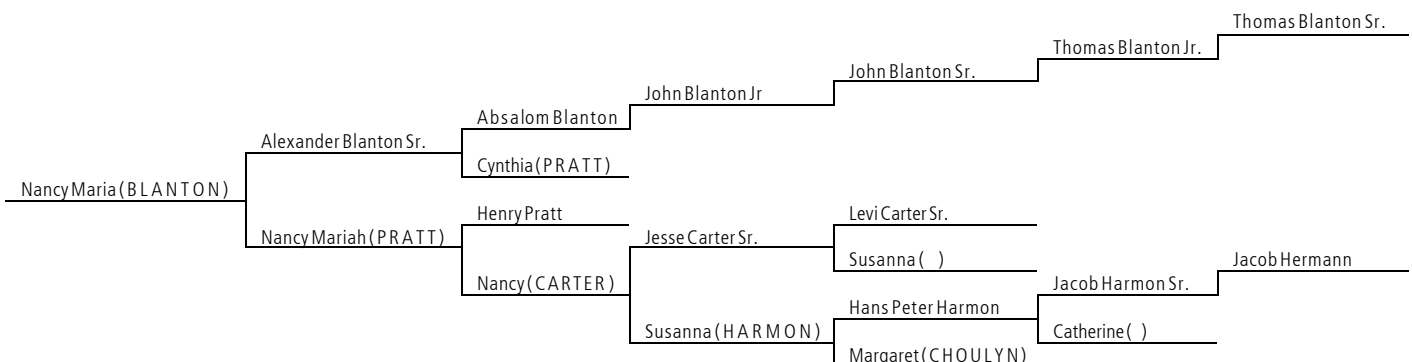
Children of Absalom B. & Martha Ellen (**JACKSON**) Blanton: Jim Dulio "Duel" Dulie married Elizabeth "Eliza" "Lizzie" F. (**STATER**), Arthur "Joker" married Mary Elizabeth (**FENTON**), and Lottie married Mahlon Edgar Keyes.



Augustus "Gus" Blanton was born 2 Mar 1858 in Richwoods, Washington Co., MO. He married Hannah Eliza (**BURLEY**) on 13 Dec 1883 in Union, Franklin Co., MO. Hannah was born 22 May 1867 in Prairie Twp, Franklin Co., MO, daughter of George Oliver and Susan () Tate Burley.

Gus died on 3 January 1933 in City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and Hannah died 31 March 1904 in Meramec Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri. Gus is buried in Sullivan IOOF Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and Hannah is buried in Glencoe Cemetery, Wildwood, Meramec Twp, Saint Louis (county), Missouri.

Children of Augustus & Hannah Eliza (**BURLEY**) Blanton: 2 children born none survived.



Nancy Maria "Nanny" "Queenie" (BLANTON) was born 12 Jan 1860 in Richwoods, Washington Co., MO and died 9 Mar 1923 in Perry Twp, Saint Francois Co., MO.

She married William E. "Uncle Bill" Key or Keys on 1 Jun 1884 after his first wife, 1st Harriet Rachel (**STEPHENS**) died between 1880/1884. Harriet was born 1862, is the daughter of Allen Franklin & Elizabeth S. "Betty" (**BUTTS**) Stephens from Johnson County, Illinois.

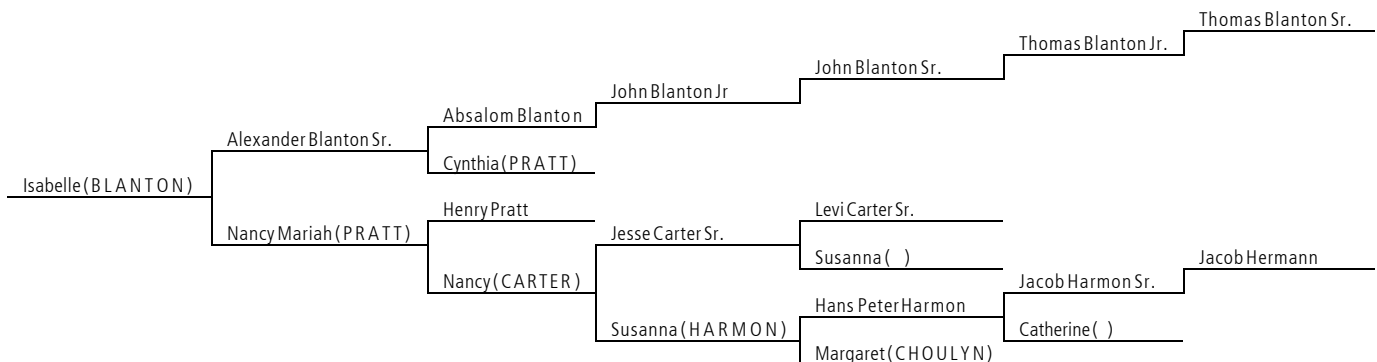
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William Keys was born in 25 November 1855 in Arkansas.²⁸² William Keys died 25 Mar 1934 in Union, Missouri and both he and Nancy are buried in the Bonne Terre Cemetery, Bonne Terre, St. Francois Co., MO.

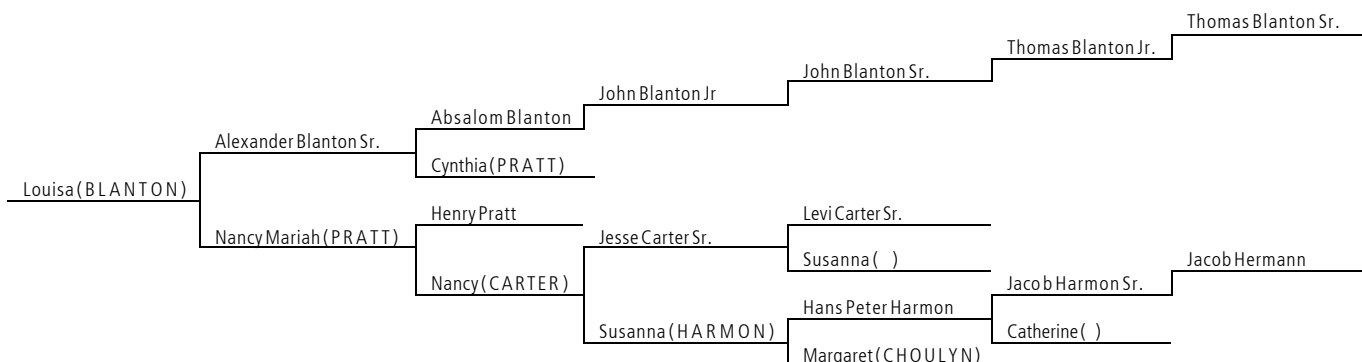
Children of William & Harriet Rachel (**STEPHENS**) Keys: Sarah Caroline married William Louis Stahlmann, John.

Children of William & Nancy "Nannie" Mariah "Queeny" (**BLANTON**) Keys: Rosie May married John Harvey Reed, Birdie married Hedgeman "Red" Asbridge, Thomas "Tom" married 1st Malissa Pearl (**NEFF**) 2nd Betty (**HILLARD**) McMahan, Theresa "Tressie" married Alexander Bailey, and Eva Maxine married 1st Otis "Odie" Chester Miller, 2nd John Wesley Hogan.



Isabelle "Belle" (BLANTON) born 8 Jan 1862 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri and died Apr 1901 according to the family bible and is buried in the Blanton Cemetery. On 10 May 1886²⁸³ she married James H. Eads. James H. was born 1863 in Crawford Co., MO to James & Amanda Jane (**BEAVERS**) Eads. James H. died 12 November 1932 and was the last burial to be buried in the Blanton Cemetery, Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri. His headstone was still standing as of 1992.

Children of James H. & Isabelle (**BLANTON**) Eads: Maude Ann (**EADS**) married James William Cain.



²⁸² Census: 1880 Crawford Co., MO., Union Twsp., Page 106C.

²⁸³ Marriage: Crawford Co., MO. Book "D", Page 249

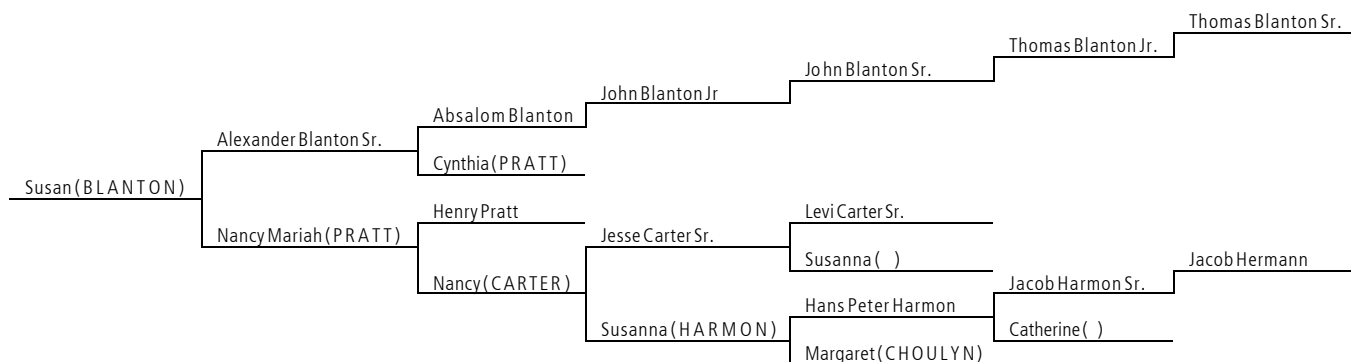
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Louisa (BLANTON) was born 11 Mar 1863 in Richwoods and died 9 Feb 1912 in Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO. She married John Henry Clark on 25 Sep 1889 in Crawford Co., MO.

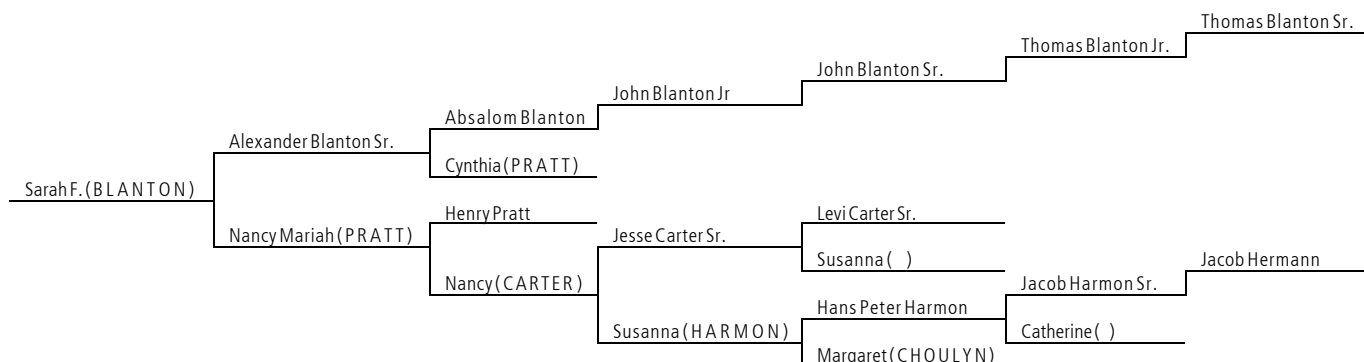
John was born Nov 1859 to Benjamin Johnson & Susan (**SULLIVAN**) Clark. John married 1st Henrietta "Etta" (**ALCORN**) 1879/1880 who died in 1889. John Clark died 1951 Denver, Denver, Colorado. John & Louisa are both buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twsp, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of John Henry & 2nd Louisa (**BLANTON**) Clark: Elsie married Henry C. Rommelman, Charles "Charlie", Carac Martin, Albert, Alice and Minnie.



Susan "Susie" Jane (BLANTON) was born 19 Jun 1866 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and died 3 January 1941 at 26th & Tyler Avenue, Joplin, Jasper, Missouri. On 7 Dec 1884, she married Andrew Jackson Archer "Jack" Bigley born 3 October 1863 near Long Bottom Post Office, Olive Twp, Meigs, Ohio. He died 23 November 1919 in Joplin, Galena Twp, Jasper, Missouri. Both are buried in Fairview Cemetery, Joplin, Galena Twp, Jasper, Missouri.

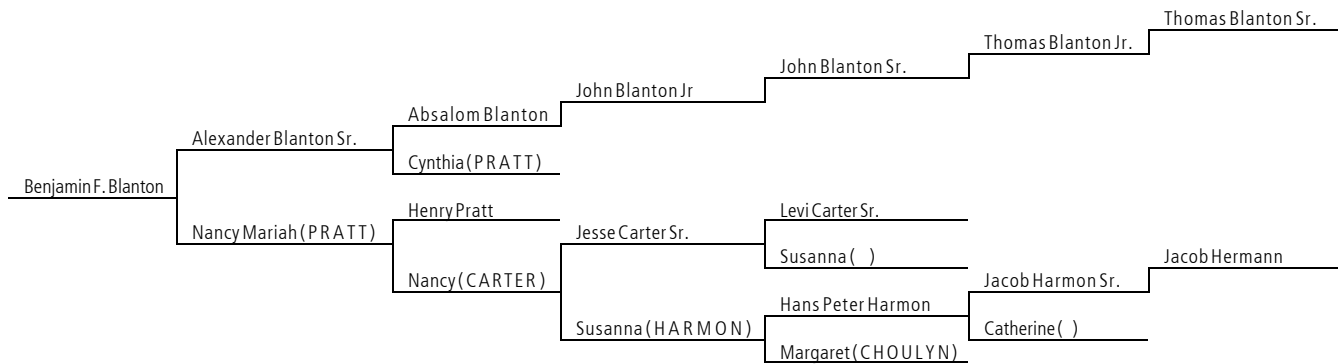
Children Andrew Jackson Archer "Jack" & Susan "Susie" Jane (**BLANTON**) Bigley: Carl William married Theodora "Dora" Marie (**CHARBONEAU**), Drucilla J. married William Kennedy, Andrew Lauren married Anna Belle (**BYINGTON**), Harry Matice, Leona Bell married Frank Peter Wilson, Roy John, Sarah "Sadie" Marie married Thomas Calvin Geurin, Gladys Jewell married 1st Harry Linthicum 2nd Allen Richardson.



Sarah F. (BLANTON) was born 15 Jan 1869 at Richwoods and married Henry A. Landers III on 30 October 1890 in Franklin, Missouri. Lost track of this family after 1900.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

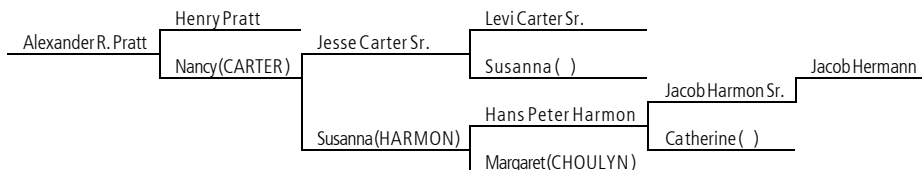
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Benjamin Franklin Blanton was born 11 Nov 1870 at Sullivan according to his enlistment papers. He enlisted at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO on July 14, 1898 and was assigned as a Private in Company "K", 6th Missouri Volunteers to fight in the Spanish/American War. He was honorably discharged at Savannah, Georgia on May 10, 1899. He was 26 years old, 5 feet 11½ inches tall, complexion dark, dark hair and blue eyes. He became disabled by rheumatism in his left leg at Havana, Cuba during the war and applied for a pension in 1909. He was a fireman and his residence was 93413th Street, Denver, CO. on 12 Apr 1909.

Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed told me that she thinks he was a prisoner during the war at McAlester, Pittsburg Co., OK. Pittsburg County was created in 1907 from Choctaw Lands.

On 27 May 1902, he married Mary Christine (**RUTTLEDGE**) at McAlester born May 1877 in Precinct 1, Coleman, Texas, daughter of William Edward and Sarah J. (**NETHERTON**) Rutledge. He stated by 1909 they were childless. Ben died 1909-1910 in Denver, unknown when she died or where they are buried.



ALEXANDER R. "ALEX" PRATT & MARY (KIMBERLIN) FAMILY

Alexander R. Pratt was born March 1832/1836 in either Monroe Co., TN or on Indian Lands of Northwest Georgia. The confusion lies in the 1832 Georgia Gold Lottery where his father, Henry Pratt received a land allotment. Due to the hostile Georgia government towards natives, Henry was forced to move back to Monroe County, TN for safety.

After arriving in Crawford Co., MO via the "Trail of Tears" in March of 1839, Henry settled next to Rinard Kimberlin outside of Richwoods, Richwoods Twp, Washington Co., MO.

The Pratts and Kimberlins began a long association where eventually two of the Pratt sons would marry two of the Kimberlin daughters. We have already covered James Pratt and Catherine Kimberlin in this report.

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Also, I have already covered the story about Alexander going to the Gold fields of California before 1850 and returning in time for the 1850 census of Crawford Co., MO.

By then his father had passed away and his mother and siblings were living in close proximity to his sister, Susan (**PRATT**) Hansell near Carter Creek in Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO.

After the death of his Aunt Cynthia, and his mother's marriage to Absalom Blanton in 1852, Alexander moved with his mother into the Blanton mansion and took up residence.

When Rinard Kimberlin lived at Richwoods, Alexander knew all the Kimberlin children including Rinard's beautiful daughter, Mary. Between 1844 and 1848, the Kimberlins moved to Hamilton Hollow in close proximity to the Pratts and Blantons.

On 6 Feb 1854, Rinard Kimberling bought 105 acres from Firmin & Cynthiana (**MCILLVAIN**) Desloge in what would be Anthonies Mill, his permanent homestead. Rinard knowing the good character of the Pratts but also aware of the Missouri laws against Indians owning property, decided to help James Pratt who wanted to marry his daughter, Catherine.

So, instilled with a father's love for his daughter, nineteen days after he bought the Anthonies Mill property, Rinard sold to his new son-in-law, James Pratt, 24 acres for \$73.80.

Alexander and Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) fell in love and wanted to get married. Mary pleaded with her father to help Alexander so sometime in May of 1856, apparently Alex asked Rinard for his blessing to marry his daughter.

Rinard realizing the Pratts were not men of financial ability, informed the young Alex who was 24 at the time, that he had to put down roots and show an ability to offer his daughter a stable and secure life.

So, a few days later, on 22 May 1856, Alex bought 40 acres for \$80.00 from William & Martha (**HYDEN**) Hughes next to Rinard Kimberlin's property at Anthonies Mill and with Rinard's blessing, 33 days later, on June 28th Alex married his sweetheart, Mary (**KIMBERLIN**).

Three years later on 18 March 1859, Alex sold the property to Ambrose Marion Pennock for \$150.00. At that time Alex moved his family back into the Blanton mansion house with his mother. Most of Absalom's children and Alexander's brothers and sisters had left the house so there was plenty of room.

Absalom Blanton dies in 1872 and in 1873 Alexander begins to purchase the old homestead of his father, Henry Pratt from the Blanton heirs. In 1875 his mother, Nancy dies intestate and Alexander handles her estate.

Between 1876 and 1880, Alexander's wife; Mary, dies and is buried in the Blanton or Hamilton cemetery.

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On, 20 Aug 1885, Alexander marries 2nd Miss Catherine Adeline “Kate” Dugan. Their son, Carac said his mother died when he was 4 years old (1892) and she or *her* mother were from Holland. It appears she may have been married before and Dugan was not her maiden name.

Alex had two sons with Catherine; Carac born Oct 1888 and Cleveland born March 1892.

After the death of Kate, in 1892, Alex sold 64 acres around the Pratt homestead for \$1000 to Ross M. Crow on 8 Oct 1892. In 1893 he sold the remaining 80 acres for \$1000 also to Mr. Crow.

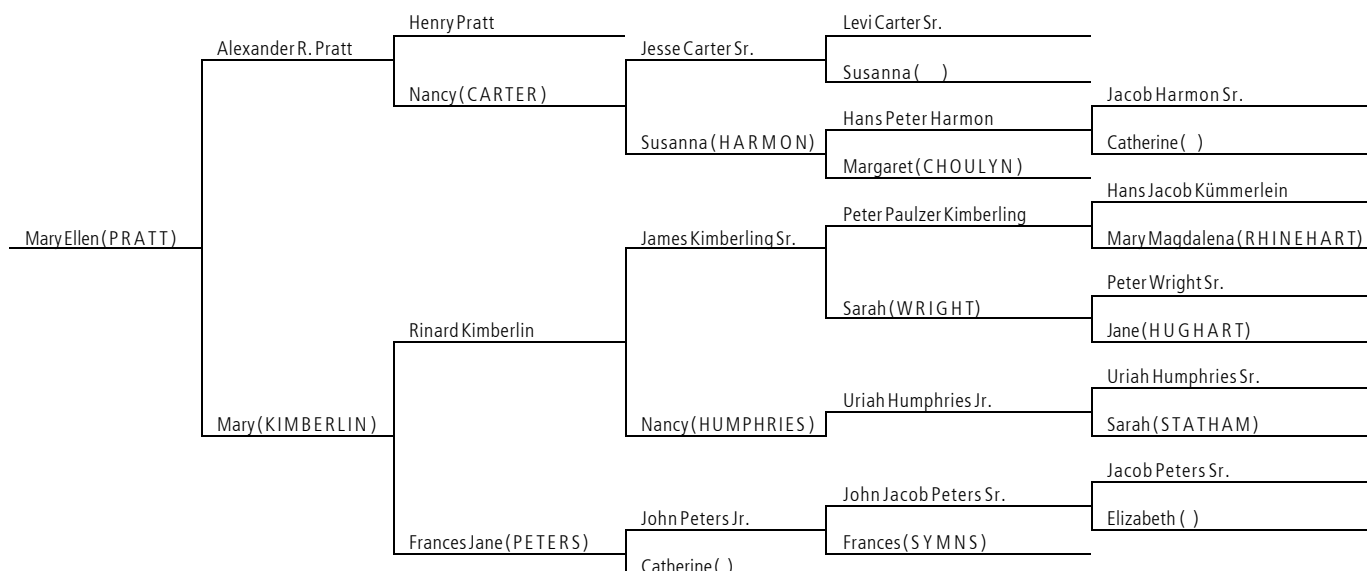
Ross Crow also purchased the Blanton mansion, which became known as the Crow Mansion.

In the 1900 census Alex had moved into Boone Twsp., Crawford Co., MO near his son, Henry Winslow Pratt’s family on Crows Creek. By the 1910 census, Cleveland had died and Carac was on his own, so Alex moved into the household of Henry’s family.

In the winter of 1912, Alex was visiting his daughter, Polina (**PRATT**) Callahan down in Cherryville and had a heart attack and died.

The weather had coated the area with a layer of ice and the wagon could not get him back to the Sullivan area so they buried him at the Freeman Cemetery at Cherryville. His marker was still there in 1992.

CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER R. & 1ST MARY (KIMBERLIN) PRATT



Mary Ellen (PRATT) was born 27 Nov 1857 at Anthonies Mills, Washington Co., MO. On 3 Mar 1878, she married James Franklin Studdard. James was born 24 Jan 1856 in Franklin Co., MO and is the son of James William & Betsy “Bacey” Susie (**PREWIT or PRUITT**) Studdard.

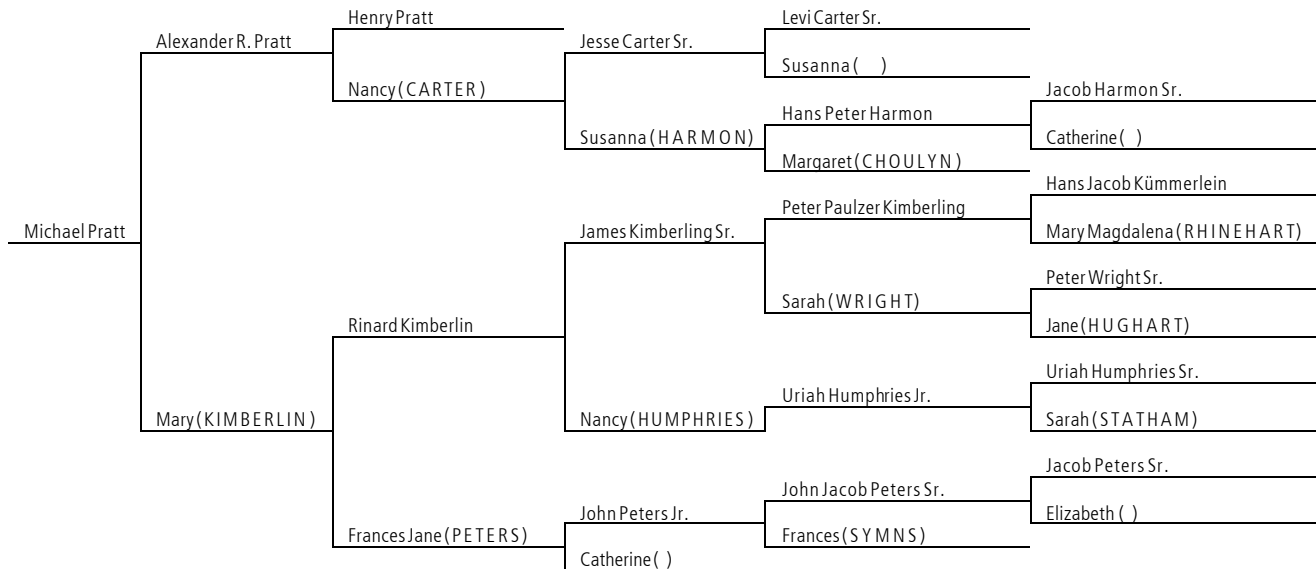
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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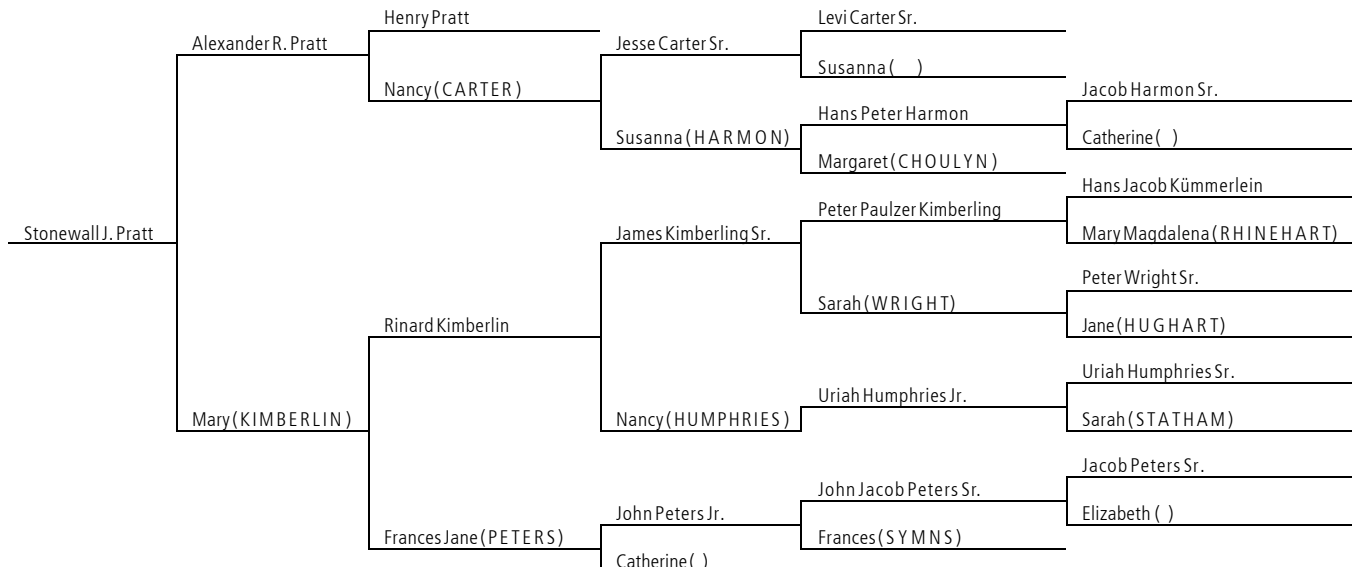
James is the son of John & Sarah (**CAIN**) Studdard. Betsy "Bacey" Susie (**PREWIT** or **PRUITT**) is the daughter of David & Eleanor (_____) Prewit or Pruitt.

Mary died 12 Jan 1928 and James died 29 October 1939 at 25 Marshall Road, Valley Park, Saint Louis (county), Missouri. According to Dolly (**STUDDARD**) Lahmann, their granddaughter, they are both buried in Hamilton Cemetery.

Children of James Franklin & Mary Ellen (**PRATT**) Studdard: John Asa married 1st Susan "Susie" A. (**WEST**) 2nd Frances "Fannie" Jane "Janie" (**BOYER**), Katherine "Katie" married Sylvester "Dock" Ward, Franklin "Frank" D. married Emma K. (**BREWER**), Newton "Newt" married Bessie L. (**GRIFFITH**), Pearlina married Walter Franklin Allen.



Michael Pratt was born Jun 1860 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twsp., Washington Co., MO. and died before the Jun 1870 census. Buried probably in the Hamilton Cemetery.



HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Stonewall Jackson “Jack” Pratt was born 16 Sep 1861 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. On 21 Feb 1884, he married Mary “Mollie” Louise (**TAYLOR**).

Mary was born 26 May 1863 in Richwoods, Washington Co., MO daughter of Dr. Archibald Ritchie & Marie Louise (**ROUSSIN**) Taylor. She had claimed that her great Uncle was Zachary Taylor, the president.

Jackson and Mollie lived around Richwoods until 1905 then they moved to Columbia, Boone Co., MO. Jackson didn't like his name Stonewall and changed it to Jackson Newton Pratt.

He was a building contractor and built many residences in the Columbia area.

In 1994, I wrote a letter to all the Pratts in the Columbia phone book hoping to connect with a descendant of Jackson & Mary (**TAYLOR**) Pratt. Ralph Alexander Pratt Jr., grandson of Jack and Mollie contacted me I made a trip to Columbia to visit with him and his wife, Anita May (**GREER**).

Ralph told me many interesting stories about his grandpa and showed me the houses that his Grandpa Jackson had lived in and/or bought.

He described Jackson as 6'2" and weighed 190lbs and had a dark complexion.²⁸⁴

As I asked him about Jack & Mollie's children, he told me that one of the boys became rich and bought a motel in Joplin, Missouri. This boy had educated his three sons, all becoming lawyers and moved to Texas, where they operate a hotel chain.²⁸⁵

Ralph was an immense help in tracking down Jackson's family. A few days after our last conversation in the fall of 1994, Ralph died from a heart attack.

Jackson died 18 Aug 1941 and Mary (**TAYLOR**) Pratt died 9 Mar 1944 and both are buried in the Columbia Memorial Cemetery, Columbia, MO.

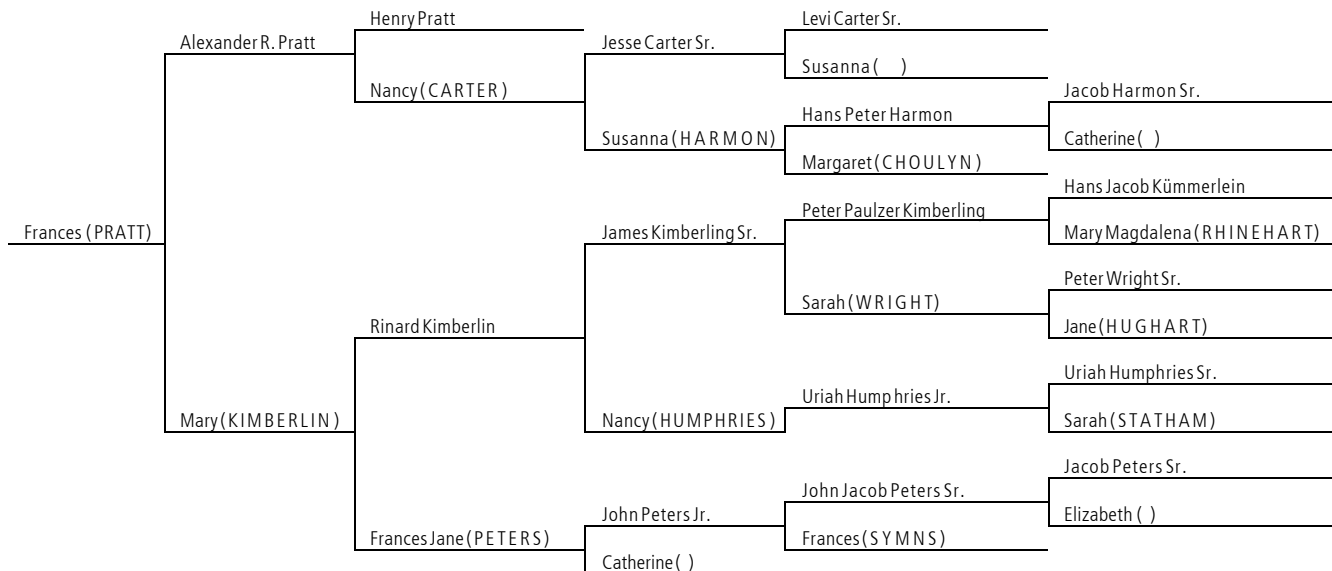
Children of Stonewall Jackson “Newton” & Mary “Mollie” Louise (**TAYLOR**) Pratt: Taylor Edward married Etner E. (**PEEK**), Archibald "Archie" Jerome married Anna "Annie" Lou (**DAVIS**), Alicia "Alice" Maria, Aspasia Louise and Ralph Alexander Pratt Sr. married Mary Alvin (**GRINDSTAFF**).

²⁸⁴ Once again this is more evidence of the family descendants of Henry Pratt described with dark Cherokee skin tones.

²⁸⁵ See the report "Who stole the deeds?" by Floyd Thomas Pratt (2003)

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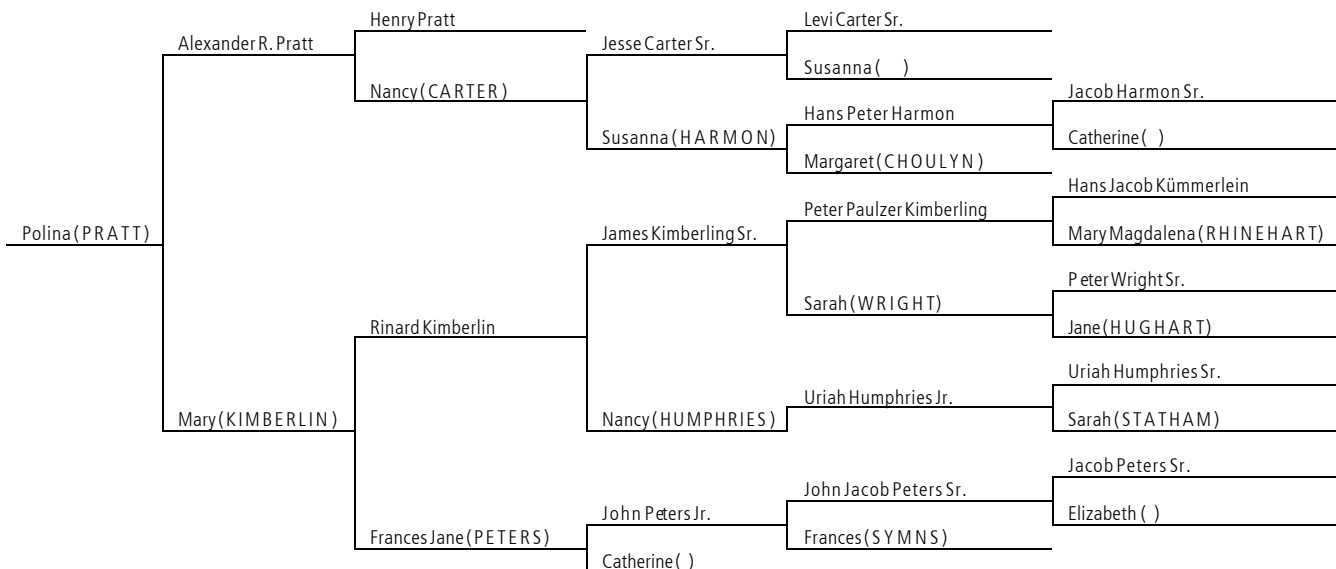
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Frances "Fannie" Minerva (**PRATT**) Whiteside Campbell died 24 Feb 1934 in Boone Twp, Crawford Co., MO. Buried at Sullivan IOOF Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri. David McDonald Campbell died 15 Feb 1915 in Hamilton Hollow and is buried in Hamilton Cemetery.

Children of 1st Jackman & Frances "Fannie" Minerva (**PRATT**) Whiteside: Bertha Ann married 1st _____ Key, 2nd William Alfred Stroup, 3rd Albert Ulysses Stroup, Mary married William Richard.

Children of 2nd David McDonald & 3rd Frances "Fannie" Minerva (**PRATT**) Campbell: Margaret Theresa "Maggie" married Howard I. Campbell, Myrtle married Charles "Charley" Neff, Hattie Ellen married Silas Green Stroup, Minnie G. married 1st John "Jack" Wesley Carter 2nd Jesse Valentine Carter, Frederick "Fred" James married Myrtle Jane (**GRIFFITH**), Howard Silus, Harrison "Harry" Sylvester married Anna Mary (**FINNEY**), and Raymond David "Mooch" married Cecil M. (**WITT**).



Paulina Perlina "Lina" (PRATT) was born 9 May 1867/1868, Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp., Washington Co., MO. On 3 Feb 1887, she married Thomas "Tom" Livey Callahan born 8 May 1853 near Elm Grove Post Office, Union Twp, Crawford, Missouri to James Madison & Annie Elizabeth "Betsy" (**YODER**) Callahan.

Thomas had been previously married to widow 1st Sarah E. (**EATON**) Harmon on 17 Mar 1876. Sarah E. (**EATON**) married 1st Emerson Elbridge Harmon Sr. on 8 Sep 1870. They had one child; Emerson Elbridge Harmon Jr. Emerson Sr. died 1872. Sarah E. (**EATON**) Harmon Callahan died 1885 Osage Twp, Crawford, Missouri.

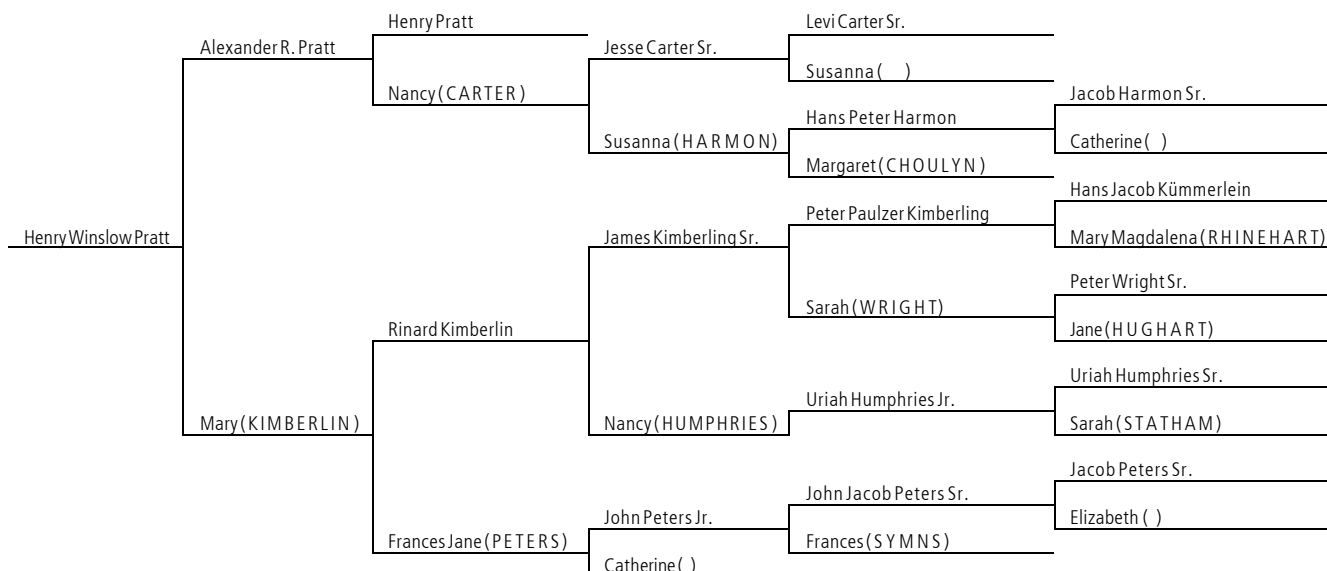
Thomas and Polina lived in the Cherryville area of Crawford County. It was at Polina's home that Alexander Pratt died in 1912. Also, if you remember, Carac Pratt's son, Orville thought Polina was an Indian woman because of the way she looked and dressed.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Lou Bobbit told me that Polina was a midwife and had delivered many of the children in Cherryville, MO. According to Cherokee custom, a woman who was a midwife was revered and honored. Any woman who held such a position, commanded respect and assumed a leadership role within the tribes.

Children of Thomas "Tom" Livey & 2nd Paulina Perlina "Lina" (**PRATT**) Callahan: Cora Ellen married Albert Neff, William Harrison "Shorty", Maude Lee married George Nathan Farris, Arthur H., Effie L. married Dennie Sellers, Alonzo "Bessie" H., Sarah "Sadie" Alice married 1st Frank Stamper 2nd Clarence "Pete" Lafayette Land Sr. and twins; Gertrude "Gertie" married Albert Lee Bobbitt, Jesse C. married Esther Coyeta (**BRITTON**), Fred Cordell "Freddie" married 1st Lola (**WORLEY**) 2nd Alice Virginia "Tookie" (**MARTIN**), 3rd Margaret Lucille (**CALLAHAN**) 4th Margaret Lee (**HENDRIX**) and Della "Delie".



Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt was born 6 Dec 1869 in Hamilton Hollow at the Blanton mansion. After his father, Alex sold the Pratt homestead in 1893; Henry moved to Vilander and met Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**). Laura was born 20 Jul 1874 in Bourbon to François Columbiere Columbus "Lum" & Cynthia N. (**TALBOT**) Missé or Missey.

On 29 Jan 1893,²⁸⁶ Henry married Laura at her father's residence. I guess the name Winslow was unique and hard for Rev. Clayton to understand, so he listed him in the marriage licensed as William instead of Winslow.

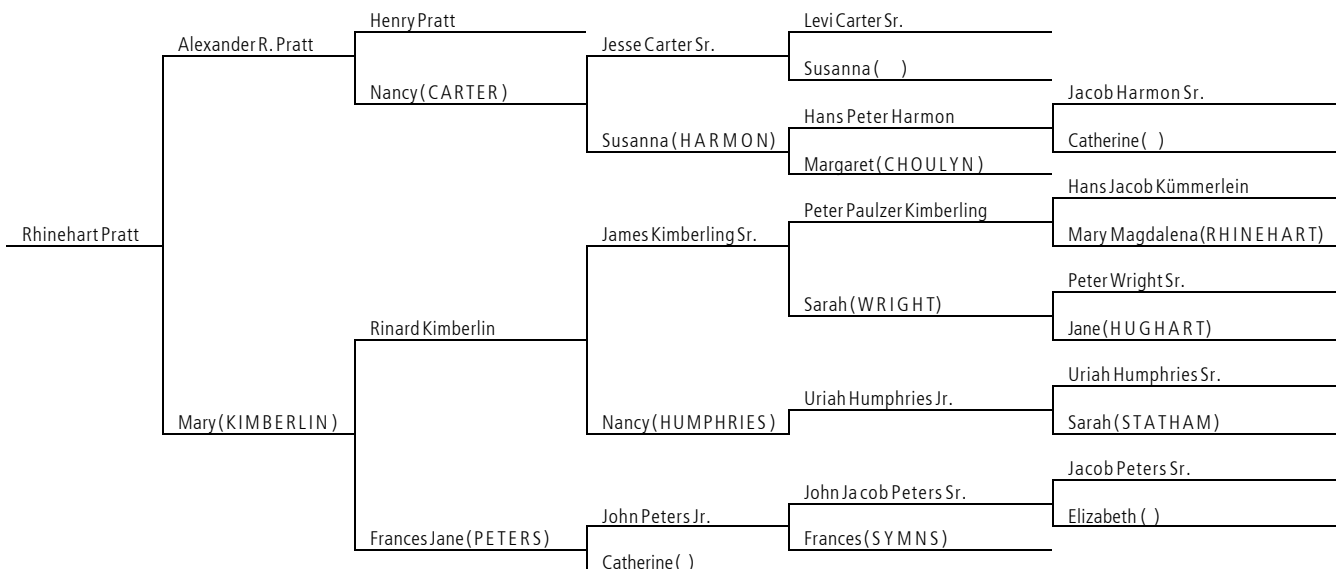
Columbus "Lum" Missey owned property on Crows Creek and after Henry & Laura were married they settled in at his father-in-law's house on Crows Creek. Henry never owned any land. He cut railroad ties and farmed. His father; Alexander moved in with them sometime after 1900 and Alex died in 1912.

²⁸⁶ Marriage: Crawford Co, MO, Marriage Book E, Page 172 (29 Jan 1893)

State of Missouri County of Crawford, This license authorizes any judge, justice of the peace, licensed or ordained preacher of the Gospel, or any other person authorized under the laws of this State, to solemnize marriage between William H. Pratt of Vilander in the County of Crawford and State of Missouri, who is over the age of twenty-one years; and Laura M. Missey of Vilander in the County of Crawford and State of Missouri, who is over the age of eighteen years. This is to certify, that undersigned a Minister of the Gospel did at residence of the bride in said County, on the 29th day of January A.D.1893, unite in marriage the above named persons. M.A. Clayton

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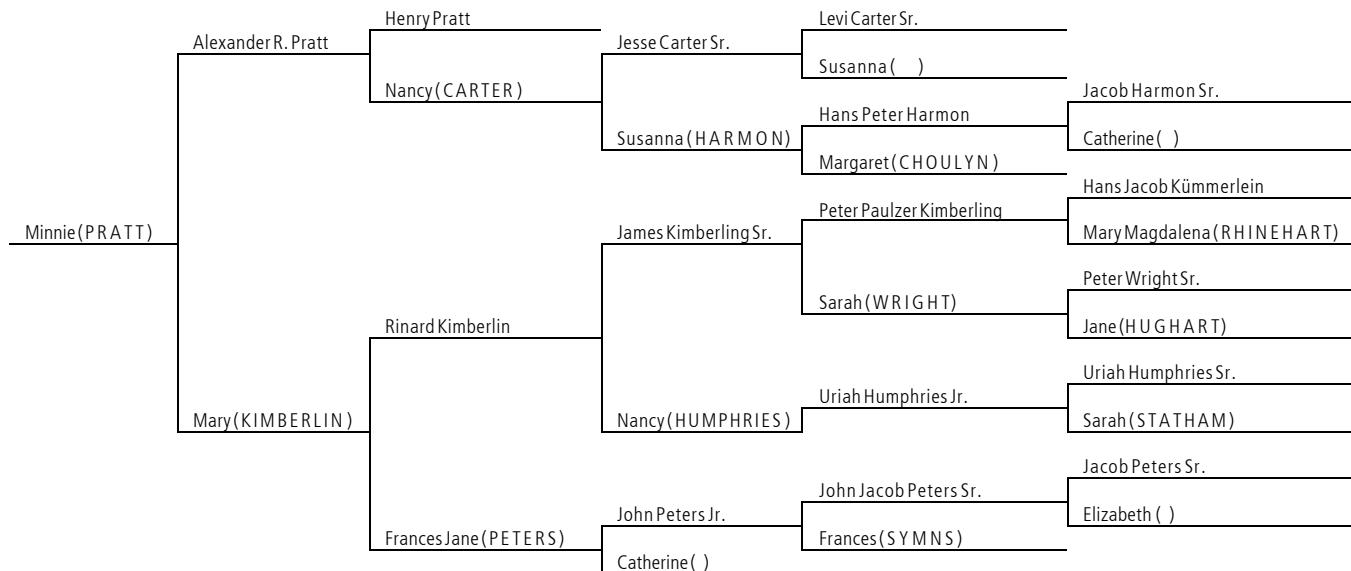
Children of Henry Winslow “Win” & Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**) Pratt: Columbus “Lum” Benjamin Alexander married Rue Flavilla (**JOHNSON**), Jesse Lee “Jess” married Nadine Mae (**SKAGGS**) Davidson, Albert Paris “Al” married Mary (**SHEPARD**), Virgil Ranson married Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**), Henry Arthur “Art” married 1st Hazel Belle (**COZIAH**) Darnell Schwartz Bellamy Vail Stall 2nd Beulah Trassy (**COFFMAN**) Beauton Spoel Cross, Ruth Jane married Rufus Allen Graddy, Mary Center died young and Orville Hayes married 1st Mary Olive (**MALLOW**) 2nd Marie Virginia (**PARSLEY**) Davis Mounce.



Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I., 4000 20th Street West Apt 113, Bradenton, FL 34205-5057 941.209.1701 floydpratt59@yahoo.com

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Minnie (PRATT) was born 8 November 1876 in Hamilton Hollow. She has been one of the most difficult members of the family to track down. She is listed in the 1880 census with her father and I cannot find her in the 1900 census or the 1910.

My Great Aunt Eula (**RICHARDSON**) Pratt told me that Minnie married a George Richter and moved to California. She worked for the Walt Disney Company and Minnie Mouse was named after her.

Based on that information, I started to search the 1900 and 1910 census records and could not find a Minnie Pratt or a Minnie Richter.

However, on 16 May 1906 in Clayton, MO in St. Louis County a Minnie Pratt married a George W. Richter. George was 28 years old and Minnie was 29 years old. This would put her birth at 1878. They both stated they were St. Louis residents.

In the 1920 census of St. Louis, MO, I found a George Richter age 41 and his wife Minnie age 43. This would put her birth at 1877.

Listed with them is a stepson, Roy Pratt age 23 and the census taker named each of these children with the surname Pratt; Estelle age 12, Clovie age 9 and Elliott age 3 years 2 months.

There are several problems with this family, which appears out of harmony with the known facts.

- First problem is that they were not all Pratts, except for Roy, because Minnie & George had been married since 1906. Therefore, Estelle was born 1908 and the rest were born after the marriage. They were Richters not Pratts.
- Second, because Roy was born in 1897 and is listed as a stepson to George, this would indicate that Minnie had been previously married to a Pratt. So, is this our Minnie Pratt, daughter of Alexander & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt? Not sure.

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- Third, in this census, Minnie says her father was born in Tennessee and her mother was born in England. We know Minnie's mother Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) was born in Washington Co., MO whose error, Minnie's or the census taker?
- Fourth, the given names the children have are alien to the normal Pratt names.
- Fifth, our Minnie was born 1876 or thereabouts and would have been marrying age by 1891. She could have married previously to another Pratt before the marriage to George Richter in 1906. This would explain her son, Roy Pratt born 1897.
- Sixth, Columbus "Lum" Benjamin Alexander & Rue Flavilla (**JOHNSON**) Pratt who lived in Bourbon, named one of their sons, Roy Pratt in 1924.
- Seventh, Minnie states on the 1920 census that her daughter Clovie was born in 1911 in Oklahoma. Maybe they were in Oklahoma in 1910.

After extensive research I have concluded the Minnie (**PRATT**) whom married George William Richter born 8 March 1878 in Dittmer, Meramec Twp, Jefferson, Missouri son of James Franklin and Sarah "Sallie" Ellen (**LAMKIN**) Richter is the correct family.

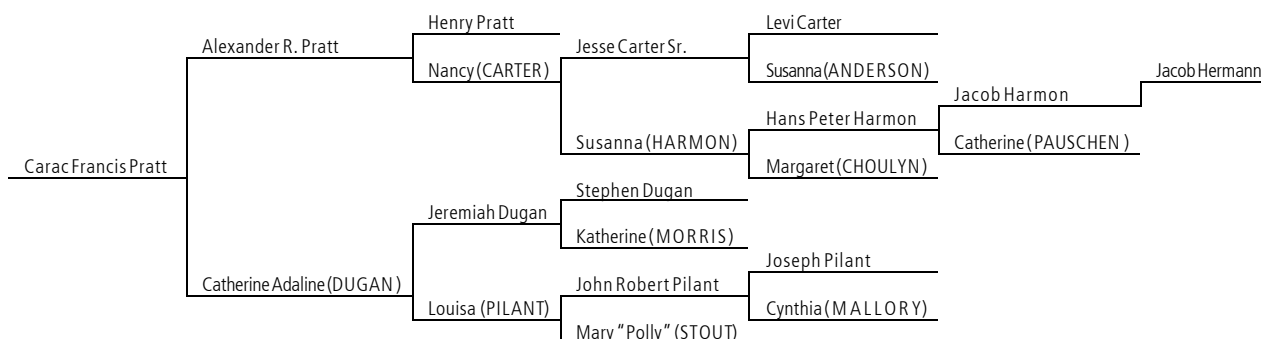
After married they moved to Tuttle Twp, Grady, Oklahoma then returned to Saint Louis (city) where Minnie died at 1726a California Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri on 4 November 1928. She is buried at Saint Paul's Churchyard, 7600 South Rock Hill Road, Afton, Saint Louis (county) Missouri.

George William Richter married 2nd Mary (_____) circa 1929-1930 and died in Big River, Cedar Hill, Meramec Twp, Jefferson, Missouri on 16 August 1934. He is buried in the Richter Family Cemetery, House Springs, High Ridge Twp, Jefferson, Missouri.

Children of 1st _____ and Minnie (**PRATT**) Pratt: Roy Thomas Pratt married Irma (_____)

Children of 2nd George William and Minnie (**PRATT**) Richter: M. Stella Estelle, Clovie married Raymond "Ray" C. George, Aurella F. died young and George Elliott married Elaine Adelaide (**GRIGG**)

CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER R. & 2ND MISS CATHERINE ADALINE (DUGAN) PRATT



Carac Francis Pratt was born 13 Oct 1888 at Hamilton Hollow. His mother; Catherine "Kate" Adaline (**DUGAN**) died when he was 4 years old in 1892. After her death, his father, Alex sold the Pratt homestead to Ross M. Crow and they moved to a rented farmhouse in Boone Twp, Crawford Co., MO by 1900.

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Carac told his daughter, Vera that Catherine Adaline “Kate” (**DUGAN**), his mother was from Holland or Kate’s mother was from Holland. After the 1900 census, Carac was living with his sister, Polina “Lina” (**PRATT**) Callahan at Cherryville, Crawford Co., MO.

Around 1908/1909, Carac Pratt got into an argument with one of the Stroup boys. The argument turned to a fight and while Carac was preoccupied with the boy he was fighting, a brother of the Stroup boy pulled a knife and stabbed Carac in the back just missing his left lung.

Carac was sick for 6 months and recuperated by staying with his sister Fannie (**PRATT**) Campbell who was living in Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. After he gained his strength back, he found the boy that had stabbed him and hit him in the head with a beer bottle putting the boy in the hospital.

Carac fearing retaliation from the Stroup family left the Sullivan area and settled in Ishmael, Harmony Twp, Washington Co., MO., near Courtois close to the Iron County border. Ishmael is south of Brazil. It was while he was working in the area cutting railroad ties that he met his future bride, Olivea Jane (**JARVIS**).

Olivea Jane (**JARVIS**) was born 11 Jan 1892 in Courtois, Washington Co., MO to James Monroe & Martha Ann (**GRIGGS**) Jarvis.

The Cornelius Jarvis family came from North Carolina and settled White Co., TN for a while before moving to Harmony Twp, Washington County area between 1840 and 1850. Son, Foster Marion Jarvis married Permelia Jane (**YOUNT**) on 2 Mar 1848 and James Monroe Jarvis was born 30 August 1863 near Webster Post Office, Harmony Twp, Washington, Missouri.

On 26 Feb 1913,²⁸⁷ Carac bought 80 acres of land from the Sligo Furnace Co. in Dent County for \$160.

On 28 Apr 1918, Carac enlisted at Potosi, MO in the US Army. He stated he was born in Sullivan and was 27 years of age. His occupation was a farmer and he had brown eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion. He was 5 feet 10 inches in height.

He served in several campaigns; Lucy Sector, St. Mikiel offensive, Envezine Sector, and Argonne Meuse offensive. He was entitled to wear one gold service chevron. He achieved the rank of Private First Class and was discharged on 1 June 1919 at Camp Funston, Kansas. Upon returning from the war, according to the 1920 census, Carac moved back with the James Jarvis family in Harmony Twp, Washington Co., MO.

On 10 Mar 1920²⁸⁸, he sold his 80 acres of land in Dent Co., MO for \$195 to D.K. Sease.

With the increase of funds he married his sweetheart, Olivea Jane (**JARVIS**) in Courtois, Washington Co., MO ten days later, on 20 Mar 1920.

²⁸⁷ Deed: Crawford Co., MO., Deed Book 65, Page 638, Filed 26 Feb 1913

²⁸⁸ Deed: Crawford Co., MO., Deed Book 77, Page 249, Filed 10 Mar 1920

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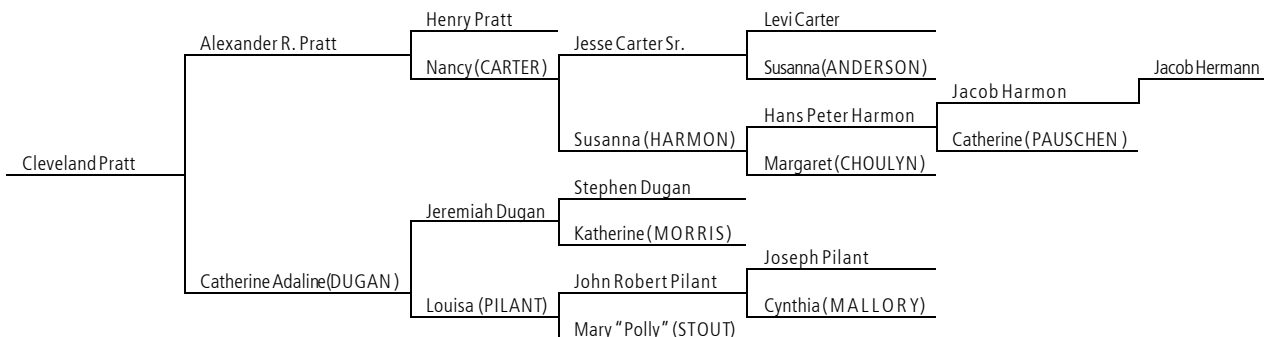
Sometime in the 1930's, Carac took his son, Richard to visit Carac's half-sister, Polina (**PRATT**) Callahan and when Richard saw her for the first time he said, "Dad, she looks like an Indian." Polina had long, coal black hair parted in the middle and looked to Richard like an Indian. Nothing was said about the incident at that time and everyone told Richard to be quiet.²⁸⁹

Carac placed a small metal grave plaque at his father's grave in the Freeman Cemetery outside of Cherryville. I was able to see this plaque, which stated:

Alexander R. Pratt
1831-1912

Olivia "Leva" Jane (**JARVIS**) Pratt died 17 Oct 1952 and Carac Pratt died at the Veteran's Hospital in St. Louis on 9 Feb 1975. Both are buried next to Olivea's parents in the Lower Indian Creek Cemetery, outside Potosi, Washington Co., MO.

Children of Carac Francis & Olivia "Leva" Jane (**JARVIS**) Pratt: Elwin Richard married 1st Dorothy Josephine (**GRADDY**) 2nd Elizabeth "Betty" (**WRIGHT**), Orville Carac Sr. married Eileen Helen (**EVANS**) and Vera Virginia married James Stanislaus Thebeau.



Cleveland "Cleve" Pratt was born March 1892 in Hamilton Hollow. According to his brother, Carac their mother died in 1892. She may have died in childbirth.

After his Dad sold the Pratt homestead in 1893, he lived with his Dad, Alexander in Boone Twp, Crawford Co., MO according to the 1900 census.

In October 1910, tragedy struck the Pratt family and Cleveland died 1 October 1910.

While I was researching the old newspapers in the Missouri State Historical Society in Columbia, MO,²⁹⁰ I found the following newspaper article:

Sullivan Sentinel, Thursday, Oct 6, 1910, page 8, column 4, Algire Section:

"Mr. CLEVE PRATT was buried at the Hamilton grave yard Sunday evening at about two o'clock."

²⁸⁹ Vera Virginia (**PRATT**) Thebeau, Carac's daughter told this story to me in 2003. Tom Pratt

²⁹⁰ State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry, Columbia, MO 65201

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

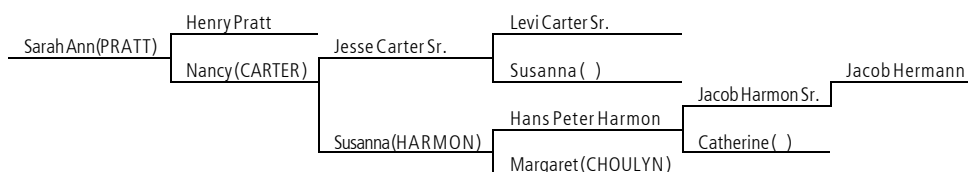
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Since the date of the article was Oct 6, 1910, which was a Thursday, and it states he was buried on Sunday, which would have been the 2nd of October, then he most likely died on Oct 1, 1910 and was buried the next day. The newspaper article failed to mention the cause of death.

This death disturbs me greatly. You would think that a man in his prime of 18 years would have gotten a few more lines as to the cause to his death. No mention of sickness, injury or foul play.

Also, as was the Cherokee tradition, in the Hamilton cemetery there are no markings, monuments or headstone to mark his place or to tell his story.

This is a sad and disrespectful way in which to sum up a life.



SARAH ANN (PRATT) AND JOHN ANDERSON BLANTON FAMILY

Sarah Ann (PRATT) was born 31 Oct 1834 according to the headstone. Since the 1860 census was taken on 8 August 1860 and she is 26, and in the 1870 census taken on 11 April 1870, she is 35, and in the 1880 census she is 46 taken on 1 June 1880, then this puts her birth date between, April 11, 1834 and June 1, 1834. Which places her birth in Monroe Co., TN.

After her father's death, and according to the troublesome Goodspeed's article, which I have covered in detail already, she was married on 10 Aug 1851. She married John Anderson Blanton, born 1 May 1830 in Monroe Co., TN to Joshua & Bethany (**HARMON**) Blanton. No written record has been found to verify this marriage in any of the surrounding counties.

Joshua Blanton remained in Monroe Co., TN and did not arrive in Scott Co., MO until about 1842. He lived there for a time and moved his family to Madison Co., MO about 1848 and then to Washington Co., MO in time for the 1850 census.

His family was **not very familiar** with the Henry Pratt family and even in Monroe County did not live in close proximity. By the time Joshua made it to the Washington County area of Missouri, Henry Pratt had died and widow Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt and family were living over by New Rock on Carter Creek in Crawford County.

After his marriage to Sarah Ann (**PRATT**), John moved his family over into Liberty Township, Crawford County near Harrison Mills Post Office according to the 1860 census. He became a blacksmith and when the Civil War broke out, he joined the Confederacy under Gen. McBride and fought at the battle of Pea Ridge and was discharged in 1862.

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He moved back to the Washington County area, Johnson Twsp., near the Osage Post Office by 1870 and set up a blacksmith shop in Sullivan by 1880.

Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton died 7 Dec 1896 in Sullivan buried at Old Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

On 12 May 1899, John Anderson Blanton married 2nd Miss Emma J. (**TROUT**) born Mar 1880, Glasgow Twp, Scott Co., IL to John P. & 1st Hester Mary (**COOK**) Trout. The 1880 census states she was 4 months old at the time of the census.

John Trout married 2nd Elizabeth (**PRYOR**) and moved between 1888/1900 to Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO. He and his son, Fred are listed in the 1900 Sullivan, Franklin County census in close proximity to his daughter, Emma.

CONFUSION OVER A MARRIAGE

There is a mystery with this family. In the 1900 census of Franklin County, Emma says they have been married 1 year. However, she shows a daughter Edith born July 1896. There are several possible explanations for this discrepancy.

Census: 1900 Franklin Co., MO, Meramec Twsp., Sullivan City, Page 1A, House 5, 1 June 1900:

BLANTON , J.A.	70	head	born: May 1830	mar 1y	born: TN	Fa: KY	Mo: TN
Mrs. Emma J.	19	wife	born: Mar 1881	mar 1y	born: IL	Fa: IN	Mo: IN
Edna	1/12	dau	born: Apr 1900		born: MO	Fa: TN	Mo: IL
Edith	4	dau	born: Jul 1896		born: MO	Fa: MO	Mo: ---

[Mrs. Emma J. Blanton says she had 2 children 2 are living and they have been married 1 year. Emma states she is 19 in this census, which is correct.]

1. Edith was Emma's child from a previous Trout marriage.
2. Edith is John's child with Emma and was illegitimate.
3. Edith's birth date is wrong.
4. John adopted Edith and gave her his Blanton surname.
5. Edith was not Emma's daughter at all.

However the 1910 census really confuses the issue because Emma places Edna as the oldest ahead of Edith. (Census taker's error?)

Census: 1910 Franklin Co., MO., Meramec Twp, Sullivan City, Euclid Street, Page 197, 20 Apr 1910,

BLANTON , John A.	head	w m	79	mar2	10yrs	born: TN	Fa: KY	Mo: TN
Emma	wife	w f	27	mar1	10yrs	born: IL	Fa: IN	Mo: IN
Edna	dau	w f	13			born: MO	Fa: TN	Mo: IL
Edith	dau	w f	10			born: MO	Fa: TN	Mo: IL
Joseph	son	w m	5			born: MO	Fa: TN	Mo: IL

[Emma says she has had 4 children born and 3 are living and they have been married 10 years. Living next door to son, John W. & Rosa M. (**JUERGENS**) Blanton]

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You can see in the 1900 census Edith is 4 years old and in the 1910 census she is 10 years old. In the 1900 census Edna is 2 months old and in the 1910 census she is 13 years old.

If Emma has been married once, and she has had 2 children born then how could Edith be born in July 1896 three years before John and Emma were married?

Also, notice that in the 1900 census, they say Edith's father was born in MO and they don't know where her mother was born. If Emma was her mother, then surely they would know where her mother was born. However, in the 1910 census her parent's birthplace is listed identical to the rest of the family.

You might say, maybe Edith was Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton's daughter. Sarah Ann died on 7 Dec 1896. This could mean that Edith, who was born in July 1896, was Sarah Ann's daughter.

Sounds good, but this presents an extremely unlikely scenario. Sarah Ann's last known child was Katherine born in 1881. If Edith is Sarah Ann's daughter, that means that Sarah Ann would have been 62 years old at the time of Edith's birth in 1896. With a void of children from her youngest daughter, Katherine in 1881 to Edith in 1896 would have been 15 years! Highly unlikely!!

So, is Edith a Blanton or a Trout? The following I think answers part of the question.

Concerning the question, was Emma previously married? I present the following article:

"Groom 60, Weds 16 year old Girl"

John A. Blanton and Miss Emma Trout were married last Sunday (May 12) by Esquire ?? V. Pitts. Mr. Blanton was well known, having been a blacksmith here for many years. Miss Trout is the daughter of Hon. John Trout and is just 16 years old while the groom is 60.

A copy of this article was given to me, newspaper unknown, most likely one of the Sullivan papers.

As this article states, Emma was 16 years old at the time of this marriage in 1899. I doubt that she was previously married because the article states, Miss Emma Trout.

Therefore, either Edith was Sarah Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton's daughter or Emma's illegitimate daughter...or none of the above.

Concerning Emma's age, as stated above, I found Emma with her Father and Mother in the 1880 census of Glasgow Twsp., Scott Co., IL showing her as 4 months old. Therefore, she was 19 when she married John, not 16 as the article states.

Knowing how the community of Sullivan must have reacted to this marriage, I imagine the neighbors probably persecuted John and Emma. Even by today's standards, older men marrying young girls is not looked upon with tolerance and understanding.

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According to family researcher; Malinda Irene (**HULSEY**) Murdick, John and Emma were having a difficult time with their marriage and this lack of compatibility may have had a part in John's decision to move to Los Angeles without Emma and the children to live with his son, James Edward "Ed" Blanton.

A few years later, John A. Blanton died in Los Angeles on 15 Dec 1922 and is buried at Sawtell's Soldiers Cemetery, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA.

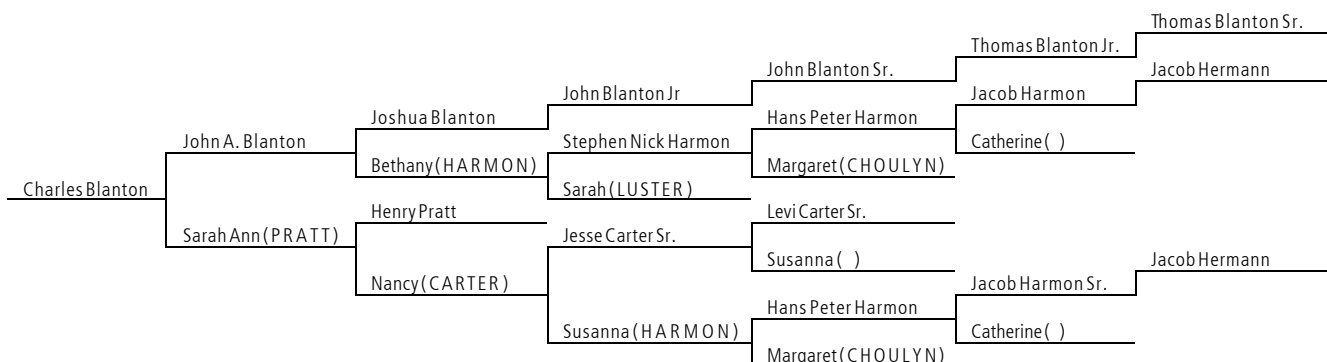
Don't misunderstand my intentions, I am not attempting to cast aspersions on anyone's character, the purpose for a correct lineage of the parents of Edith is to identify which parents are hers.

During the temple ordinances, sealing children to the correct parents is a primary concern. Of course, any errors will be corrected during the millennium; however, it would be nice to get it right in the first place.

Until Edith's lineage can be answered, I don't know which family to place her with.

Children of John Anderson & 2nd Emma (**TROUTT**) Blanton: Edith??, Edna, Lewis and Joseph.

CHILDREN OF JOHN ANDERSON & 1ST SARAH ANN (PRATT) BLANTON

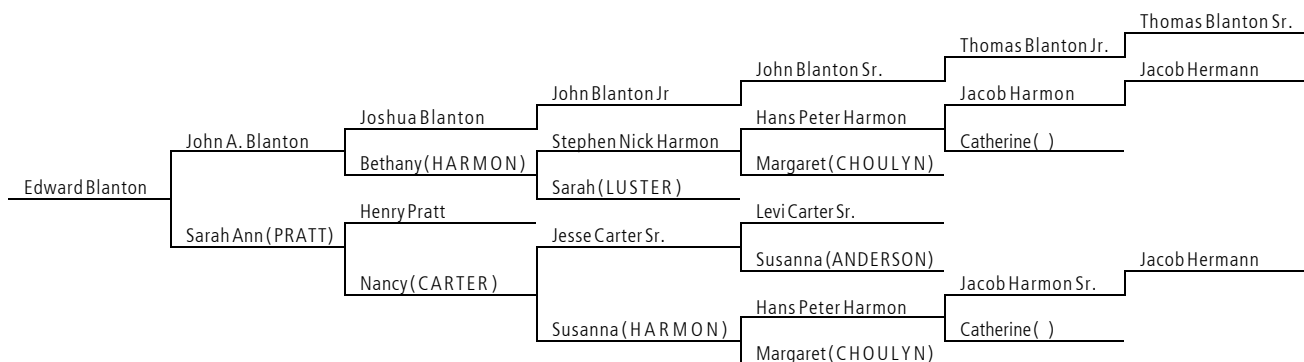


HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

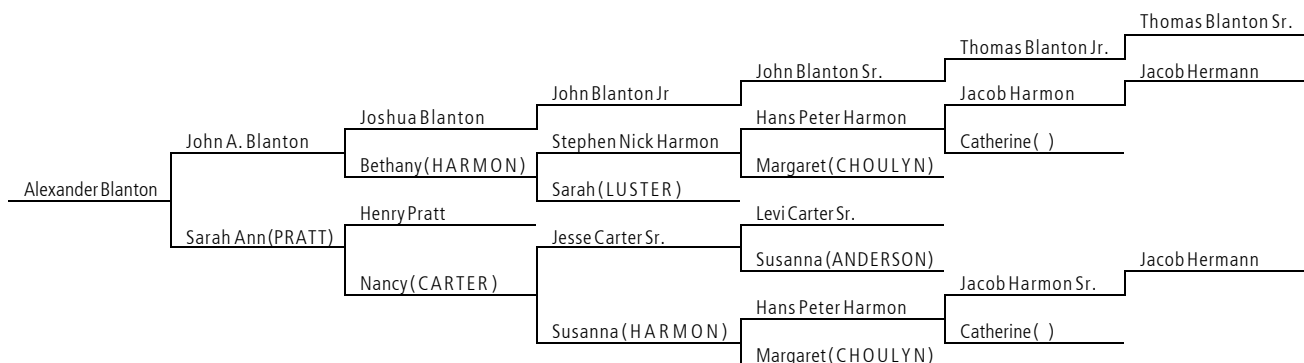
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Charles died 20 Aug 1927 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri, and Sadie died 25 September 1937 at 5201 Delor Street, Saint Louis (city), Missouri. Both are buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

Children of Charles Henry & Sarah Josephine "Sadie" (**WILSON**) Blanton: Sarah "Sadie" J. married Franklin "Frank" D. Miller Jr., Myrtle married David T. Miller, Thomas Edward, Albert Merridith married Rose "Rosa" L. (**WEST**), Jesse Virgil married Minnie Viola (**BENSON**) and Laura.



Edward Blanton was born 1852 in Crawford Co., MO and died 1858. Possible twin to brother; Charles Henry Blanton.



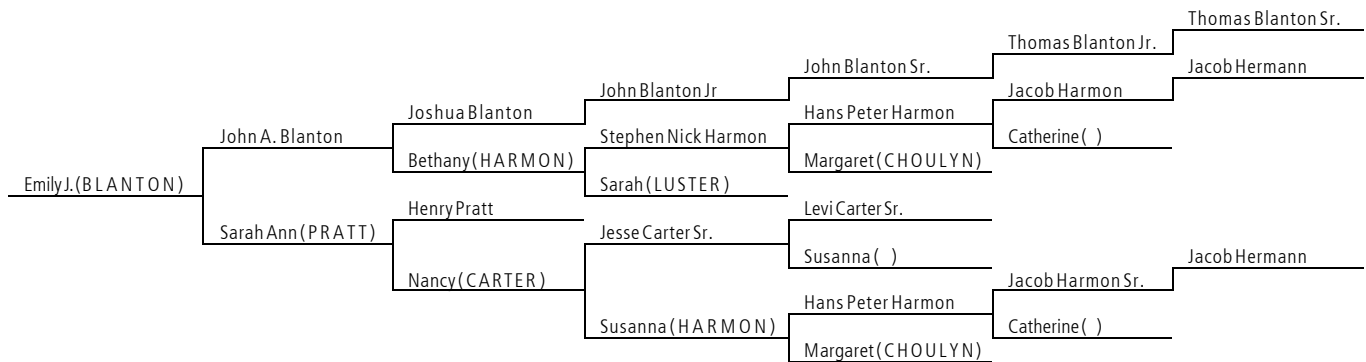
Alexander Anderson "Bud" Blanton was born 6 Jan 1854 in Crawford Co., MO. On 12 Nov 1875 in Washington Co., MO he married Ruth M. (**WHITMIRE**) who was born Aug 1861 in District 31, Franklin, Missouri. Ruth is the daughter of Thomas Simpson and Frances M. (_____) Whitmire. The Whitmire's moved to Union Precinct, Grant County, Oregon.

Alex and Ruth lived in Franklin County and settled in Crawford County by the 1900 census. Ruth died in 1917 and Alex died 1920-1930 in Los Angeles.

Children of Alexander Anderson & Ruth M. (**WHITMIRE**) Blanton: Charles P., Jacob "Jake" married Frances "Fannie" Mae (**WEST**), Lulu, Rosa married Theodore "Ted" Edward Maynard, Drucilla married Frederick Charles "Fred" Miller, Ernest Isaac "Ike" married Mary (**LISTEREAN**), Carl, Hartwell "Hartie" married Helen Cecelia (**STIRO**).

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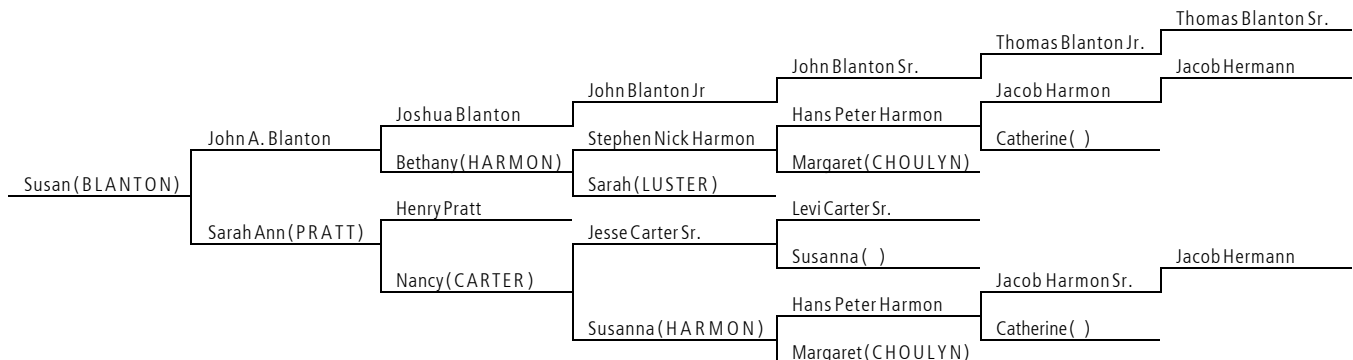


Emily Jane (BLANTON) was born 14 Apr 1855 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and on 14 Jan 1872 in Franklin Co., MO she married William Henry Hulsey Jr. born 22 Feb 1852 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri to William Henry Sr. & Elizabeth V. "Betty" (**HORINE**) Hulsey.

Emily Jane died 17 Mar 1875 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and is buried at the New Hope Cemetery, near Little Courtois Creek and Indian Creek, Washington Co., MO.

William Henry Hulsey Jr. married 2nd Virginia Dare "Jenny" (**BLANTON**) on 9 Jan 1876, sister to Emily Jane.

Children of William Henry Jr. & Emily Jane (**BLANTON**) Hulsey: Henry Austin married 1st Phoebe Alice (**ROACH**) Downing 2nd Mrs. J. L. Whitley and William Augustus married 1st Mary Etta (**PRATHER**) 2nd Mary Elizabeth (**EATON**) 3rd Amanda A. (**PLEASANT**) Rodgers.



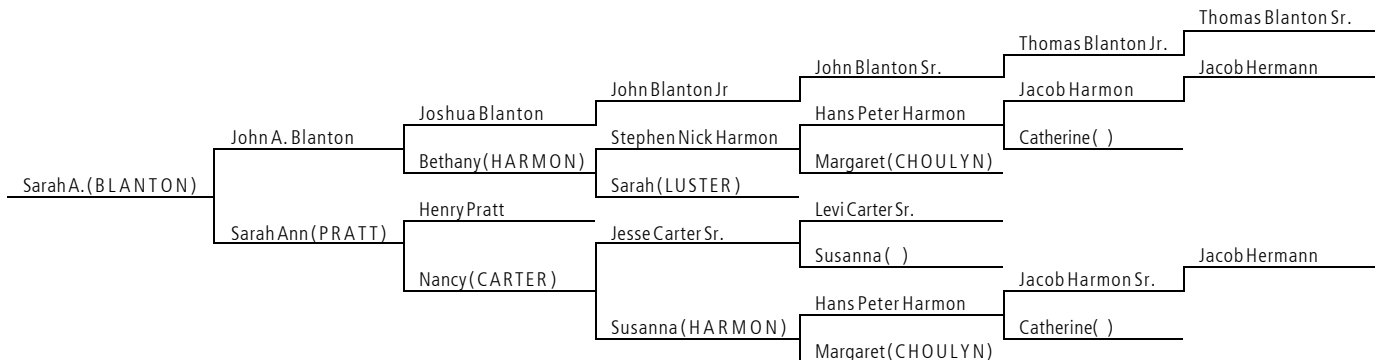
Susan Lillian (BLANTON) was born 17 Nov 1856 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and on 28 Jul 1873 she married 1st David Franklin "Frank" Miller. Frank was born 19 June 1853 near Steelville Post Office, Meramec Twp, Crawford, Missouri. Son of William Jackson Sr. and Emily Adelaide (**EATON**) Miller. David died 11 November 1924 in the Missouri Baptist Sanitarium, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and is buried in the Buffalo Cemetery.

Susan married 2nd Louis J. Cain circa 1927-1930 no children. Louis was born 14 December 1861 in Blackford County, Indiana, son of John B. and Ruth Ann (**PIERCE**) Cain. Louis died 14 May 1944 at I.O.O.F. Home, Liberty Twp, Clay, Missouri, and Susan, David and Louis are buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

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Children of 1st David Franklin "Frank" & Susan Lillian (**BLANTON**) Miller: Franklin, Walter, Hugh and Ray L. married Matilda "Tillie" C. (**CAIN**).



Sarah Ann "Sally" (BLANTON) was born 6 May 1858 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri. She married John Stephen "Steve" H. Blanton Jr. on 14 September 1874 at Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri. John was born 19 January 1854 at Bonne Terre, Perry Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri son of Stephen "Steve" H. Sr. & Hannah (**KEAY**) Blanton. After marriage they settled in Washington County and moved to Franklin County. Sally died 14 Jun 1889 and is buried in the Old Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

John Stephen "Steve" H. Blanton Jr. married 2nd Matilda Ellen "Tilda" (**PRATT**) born 24 Mar 1868 near Cuba Post Office, Boone Twp, Crawford, Missouri daughter of John Absalom Sr. & Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Caroline (**BLANTON**) Pratt. After marriage they moved to Crawford County and lived there for a while then they moved to Franklin County. Tilda died 23 Apr 1915 and is buried in the Old Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

John Stephen "Steve" H. Blanton Jr. married circa 1915-1920 a third time to 3rd Magdalena "Lena" Mary (**GRAMPP**) Blackburn born 16 March 1876 in Manchester, Saint Louis (county), Missouri, daughter of George Gottfried and Mary Louise (**DETWEILER**) Grampp. No children. Lena died 2 January 1946 at City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, 5200 Lucas & Hunt Road, Jennings, Saint Louis (county), Missouri.

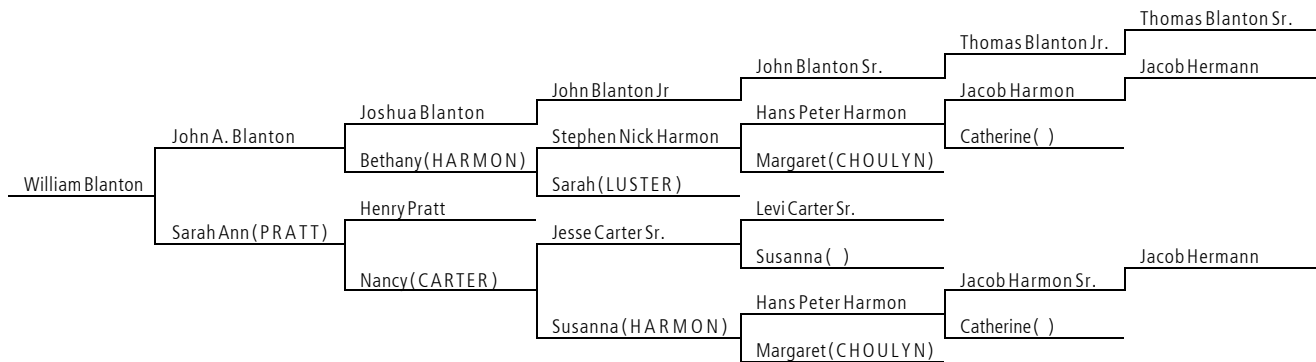
John Stephen "Steve" H. Blanton Jr. died 24 November 1939 at 1576 Valle, Wellston, Saint Louis (county), Missouri and is buried next to Sally at the Old Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of John Stephen "Steve" H. Jr. & 1st Sarah Ann "Sally" (**BLANTON**) Blanton: James Edward married Anna "Annie" H. (**KNAACK**), Phoebe married John Absalom Pratt Jr., Annie Sarah married John Henry "Dink" Simmerly, Nancy "Nannie" J. married Charles Edward Enloe and Maude M. married Louis C. Cardwell Sr.

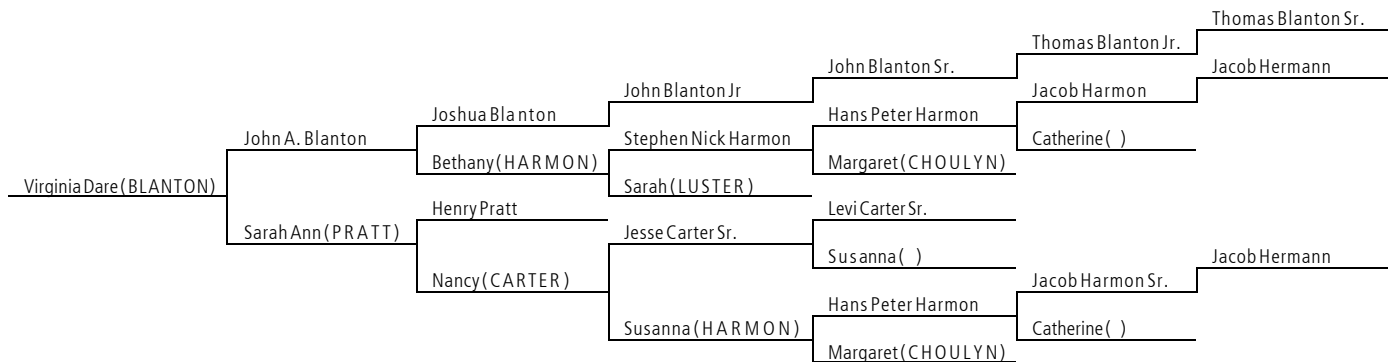
Children of John Stephen "Steve" H. Jr. & 2nd Matilda Jane "Tilda" (**PRATT**) Blanton: Homer Clarence Sr. married 1st Emma S. (**MATHIS**), 2nd Juanita Iris (**JONES**), Grace "Gracie" married Saunders Edward Jones, Orville Lewis Sr. married Irene Matilda (**TERRY**).

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William Blanton was born 18 Jan 1860 and died near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri before the 1870 census.



Virginia Dare “Jenny” (BLANTON) was born 27 May 1861 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri and married William Henry Hulse Jr. born 22 Feb 1852 to William Henry & Elizabeth V. (**HORINE**) Hulse Sr. After marriage they moved to Webb City, Jasper Co., MO.

William died 4 June 1917 at 502 South Ball, Webb City, Joplin Twp, Jasper, Missouri and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Joplin, Joplin Twp, Jasper, Missouri. William had been previously married to Jenny's sister Emily.

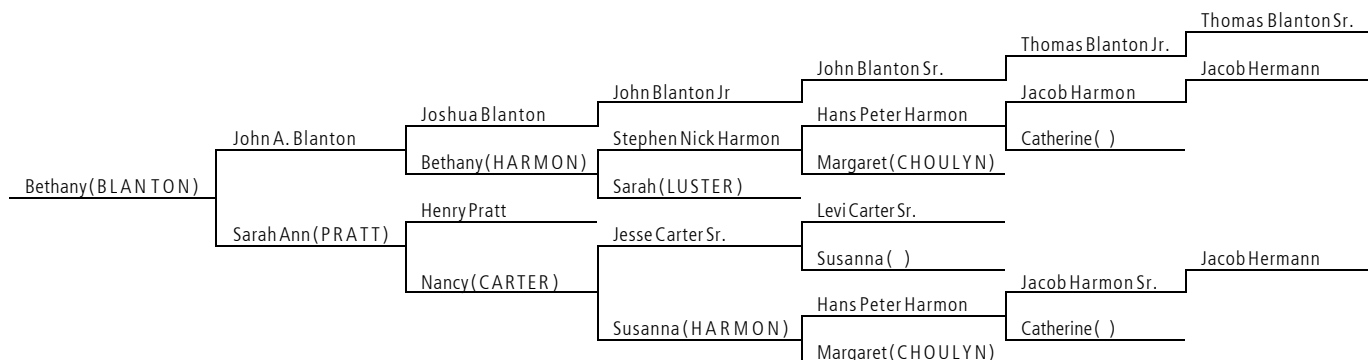
Jenny moved to Inglewood, Los Angeles Co., CA. with her son, Grover Cleveland Hulsey and married 2nd _____ Spafford. Jenny died 10 Nov 1948 at Inglewood, Los Angeles Co., CA.

Children of William Henry Jr. & 2nd Virginia Dare "Jenny" (**BLANTON**) Hulsey: Antoine Jennings "Toney" married 1st Sarah "Sallie" Pearl (**BELCHER**) 2nd Hulda Ann (**HULSEY**) Rogers Barnes Ritchey, Arthur Leslie married Caroline Josephine (**DOYLE**), Ira Alexander married Rosa Ann (**GORDON**), John Edward married 1st Nancy "Nannie" Emily (**SHELTON**) 2nd Nellie Elizabeth (**ROSE**), Carl married Mamie (**MILLER**), Newton Crow married Anna Mae (**MATHEWS**), Benjamin Franklin married 1st Della O. (**WORMINGTON**) 2nd Beulah Alice (**BERRY**), Grover Cleveland and Cora Mae married 1st Jesse E. Morris Jr. 2nd Eddie Cole.

Children of & Virginia Dare “Jenny” (**BLANTON**) Spafford: unknown.

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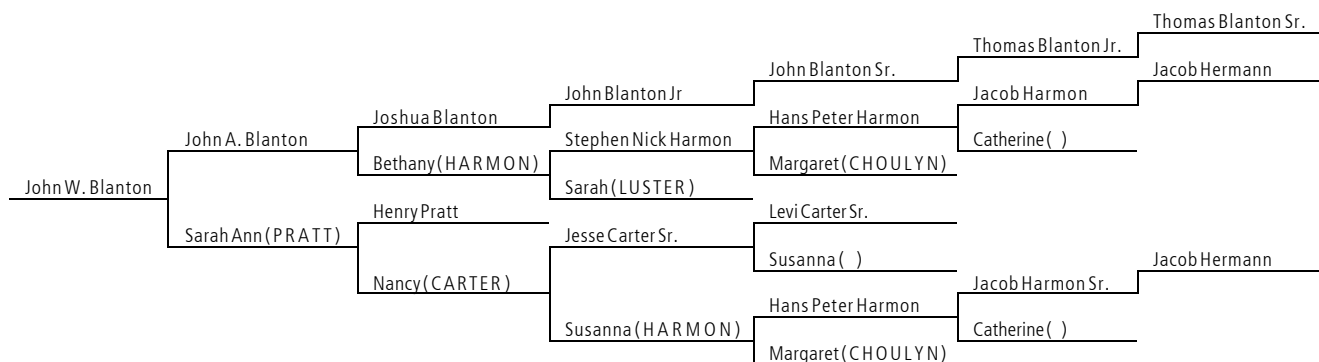
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Bethany "Thane" Nancy (BLANTON) was born 16 Jun 1863 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri and married Charles H. Keats on 25 January 1885 in Pella Twp, Ford, Illinois.

Charles was born 21 December 1860 in Harwell, Berkshire, England son of John and 1st wife () Keats. Charles died 17 October 1911 and Bethany died 3 October 1949 both in Fox Twp, Kendall, Illinois. Both buried in Millington-Newark Cemetery, Fox Twp, Kendall, Illinois.

Children of Charles H. & Bethanie "Thane" Nancy (**BLANTON**) Keats: Goldie, Nora married Theodore "Ted" Edward Maynard, and Elsie Mae married Charles A. Sleezer.



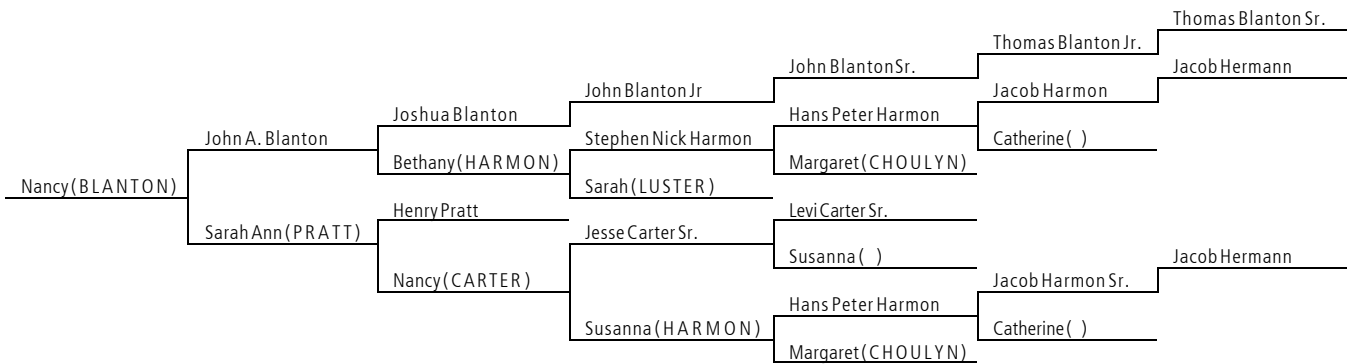
John Wesley "Jack" Blanton was born 12 Sep 1864 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and circa 1890-1891 married Rosa M. (**JUERGENS**). Rosa who was born 12 February 1864 in Saint Louis (city), Missouri daughter of John Henry and Eliza D. (**BRANDT**) Juergens.

Rosa died 15 March 1944 at Lutheran Hospital #1, 2639 Miami Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and Jack died 13 June 1948 on Euclid Avenue, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri. Both are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of John Wesley "Jack" & Rosa M. (**JUERGENS**) Blanton: Arthur H. married 1st Elizabeth "Lizzie" Anna (**SNYDER**) 2nd Grace Estelle (**MABIE**), Earl P. married Edith M. (**LICKLIDER**) and Mildred M. married 1st Julian Calburn Denny 2nd Charles "Charlie" Richard Armistead.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

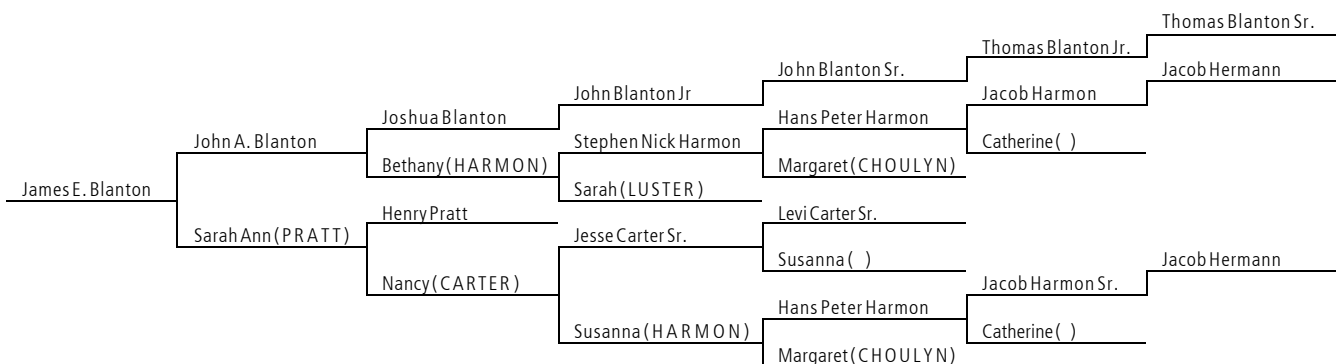
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Nancy "Nannie" (BLANTON) was born 23 Oct 1866 near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 16 Dec 1885 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri she married William Gano Hulseley born 19 Feb 1863 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri to William Henry & Elizabeth V. "Betty" (**HORINE**) Hulseley Sr. After marriage they lived in Washington County until 1890 and then moved to Doe Run²⁹¹ a few miles outside of Farmington, St. Francois Co., MO.

On 29 Aug 1931, William died at Doe Run and on 18 Jan 1954 Nancy died at Elvins near Flat River. They are both buried at the Doe Run Memorial Cemetery, Doe Run, St. Francois Co., MO.

Children of William Gano & Nancy "Nannie" (BLANTON) Hulseley: Polly Anne married 1st William Sidney Wigger 2nd Albert Osborne, Elmer married Malinda Jane "Jennie Lynn" (**HENSON**), Floyd Sr. married 1st Mattie Elizabeth "Lizzie" (**YOUNT**) 2nd Virginia Mary Waltman (**HOOD**), Glenwood "Glenn" married Dedie Ann "Delma" (**YOUNT**) and Trixie Marguerite married George Warren Hoehn.



James Edward "Ed" Blanton (twin) was born 11 Jul 1872 near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 16 June 1897 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri he married Cora Corrine "Bess" Belle (**FOSTER**) born 22 February 1880 in Leasburg, Liberty Twp, Crawford Co., MO to George Washington & Mary (**SKAGGS**) Foster. George was from New York.

Between 1914/1915 they moved to Los Angeles, CA and show up in the 1920 census with his father, James Anderson Blanton.

²⁹¹ If you remember the "Trail of Tears" went through Doe Run.

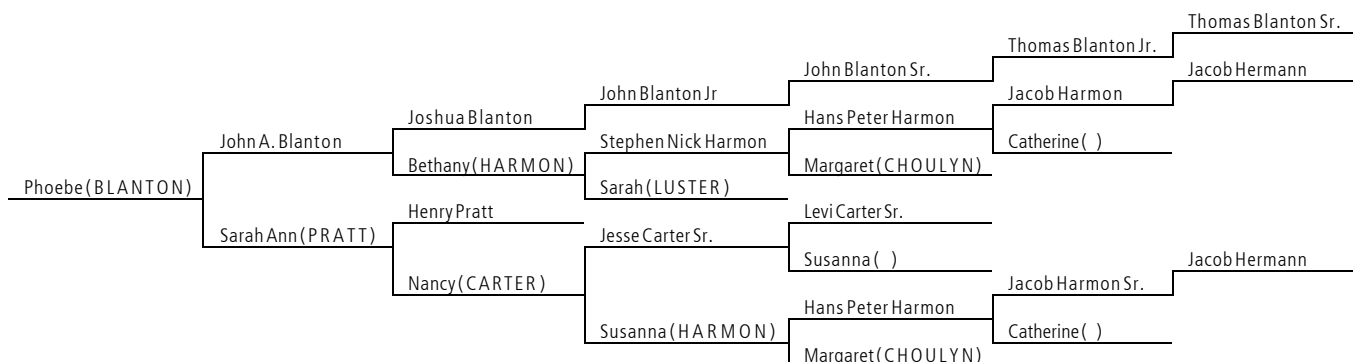
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Family researcher; Dolly (**STUDDARD**) Lahmann said that before Ed moved to California, he told her he remembered an old house that stood by the big spring in Hamilton Hollow. That would be the Blanton Mansion.

James Edward died 7 July 1955 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Twp, Los Angeles, California and Cora died 29 December 1957 in Colusa, Colusa County, California.

Children of James Edward & Cora Corrine "Bess" Belle (**FOSTER**) Blanton: Orville Raymond married Elizabeth Mary Ruth (**HUNT**), Mary Helen married Harry Robert Schmoll, Hattie Mae married Carl Louis Roberts, Margaret Mae died young, Irene, Neoma died young, Wonita "Juanita" died young.



Phoebe A. (BLANTON) (twin) was born 11 Jul 1872, near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 17 Jun 1888 in Crawford, Missouri she married 1st John Henry Austin Pennock born 15 January 1866 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri son of Ambrose Marion & Mary Ann (**DUNN**) Pennock from Indiana.

The Ambrose Marion Pennock family was from Indiana and arrived in Washington County around 1857-1859. Ambrose if you remember, bought Alexander R. Pratt's homestead at Anthonies Mill in 1859.

The story on this family gets fuzzy. Other researchers have reported Phoebe married 2nd _____ Bergner around 1901 and between 1910 and 1920 she married 3rd _____ Richardson. Eventually she ended up in California where she died 16 Feb 1954.

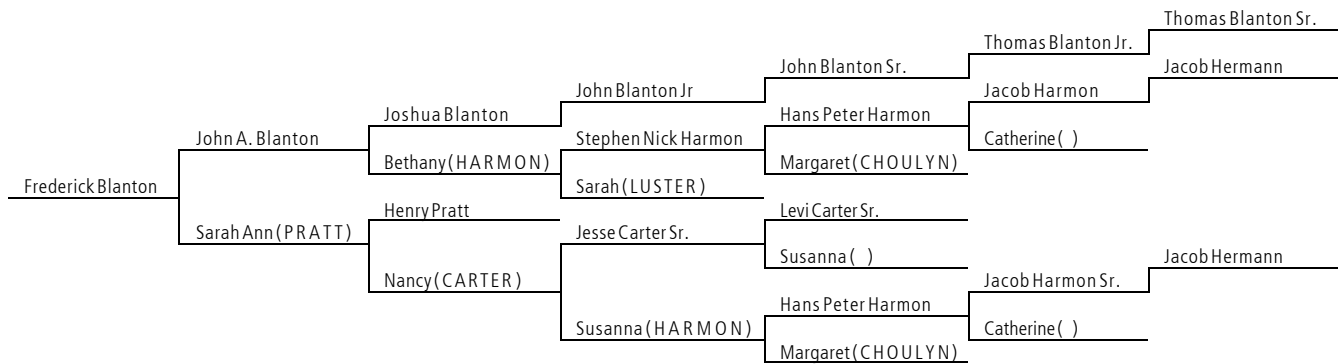
Children of John Henry Austin & Phoebe A. (**BLANTON**) Pennock: Edith

Children of _____ & Phoebe (**BLANTON**) Bergner:

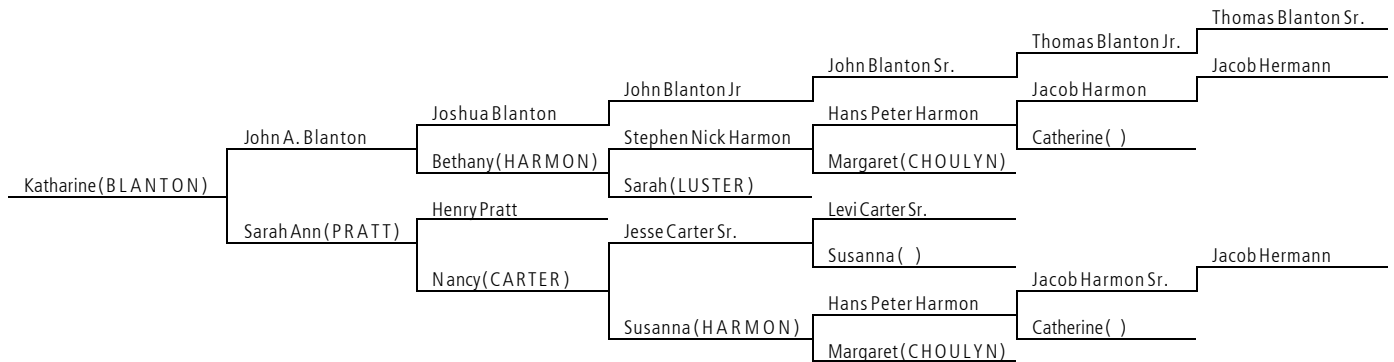
Children of _____ & Phoebe (**BLANTON**) Richardson:

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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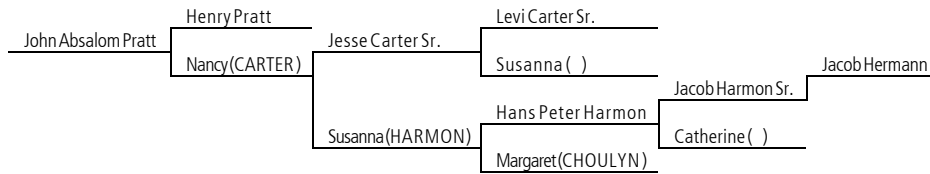
Frederick “Fred” Blanton was born 15 Jan 1878 near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and died in 1904 at the age of 26 in Sullivan, Franklin County. Never married. Buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO according to obituary.



Katharine “Kate” (BLANTON) was born 8 Jun 1881 and died 15 Oct 1881 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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JOHN ABSALOM PRATT SR. AND MARY CAROLINE "BETSY" (BLANTON) FAMILY

John Absalom Pratt Sr. was born 4 January 1837 in Monroe Co., TN. He married Mary Caroline "Betsy" (**BLANTON**) on 24 Mar 1853 in Washington Co., MO. Betsy was born 24 Jul 1829 in Greene Co., TN to Abraham Absalom & Cynthia Ann (**PRATT**) Blanton.

On 22 March 1864, Dr. John B. Bell²⁹² was commissioned by the Union Army to give physicals to men for pension applications at Potosi, MO. This was in preparation to receive a pension for military service. These records state that "Persons belonging to the E.M.M. 32nd Reg. # 56 John Pratt age 29- Diagnosis: Enlargement of liver & rheumatism."

It is unclear if the above John Pratt is our John Absalom Pratt who served in the Civil War. If the above John were 29 in 1864 this would put his birth at 1835 just about the right time for our John Absalom Pratt.

There seems to be something odd about this family. In the estate papers of Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton, the one that Alexander R. Pratt was the administrator, they list all the heirs of Nancy except John Absalom Pratt, his wife and the children.

If you notice on page 172 of this manuscript he is not listed. Why? Unknown. John & Betsy were living in the area at the time but he was omitted as an heir. Mystery.

Hypothesis: Could it be that John Absalom Pratt did fight for the Union in the Civil War and his family, especially his mother; Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton disinherited him? Wouldn't be the first time someone was disinherited in this family.

Only way to prove he's the same man would be to gain access to his Civil War record and maybe that won't be conclusive. Maybe local newspapers would shed some light.

Between 1870/1880, John moved his family to Franklin Co., MO near Sullivan. He died 27 June 1890.

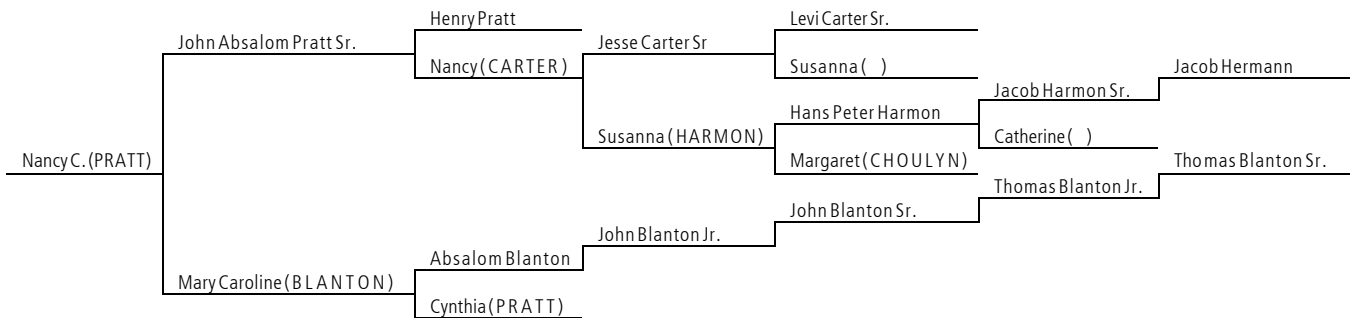
Betsy moved in with her son, Alexander in Sullivan and died 21 Mar 1916. Both John and Betsy are buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

²⁹² These records are called "The John B. Bell Papers" and are housed at the library at the University of Missouri Library in the manuscript room at Rolla, MO.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

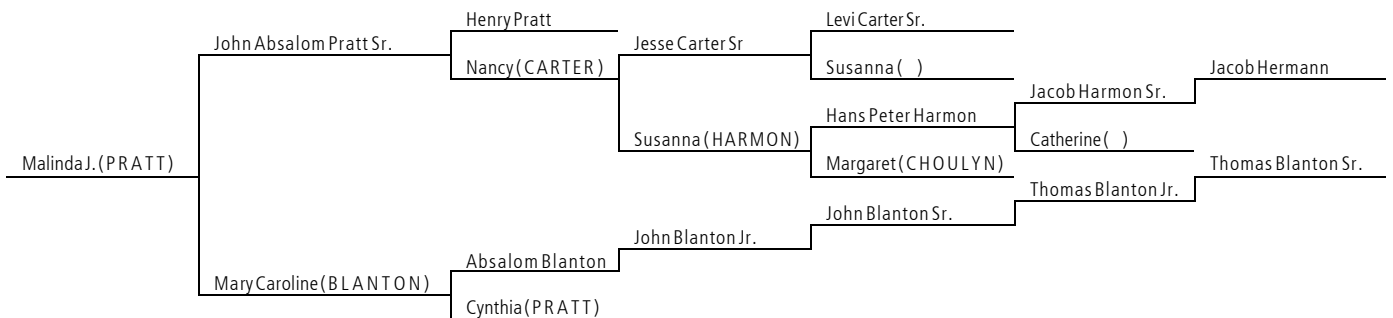
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CHILDREN OF JOHN ABSALOM SR. & MARY CAROLINE "BETSY" (BLANTON) PRATT



Nancy Catherine (PRATT) was born 1854 in Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. Circa 1876-1880 she becomes the 3rd spouse of Peter Dyle born 1828 in New York. She died after the birth of son; Alexander and before the 1900 census. Peter also died during that time period.

Children of Peter and 3rd Nancy Catherine (PRATT) Dyle: Frances, Samuel James Tilden married Johanna Crawford (**LAHMANN**), Abraham, Alexander "Alex" married Drusilla Lucille "Drusie" (**ALLEN**).



Malinda Jane (PRATT) was born 3 Mar 1855 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri and circa 1875-1877 she married Isaac Campbell born 7 Apr 1840 in Greene County, Tennessee to David & Bathsheba (**CARTER**) Campbell. Sometimes in the census she is listed as Lorinda J. and on her tombstone she is listed as Marinda.

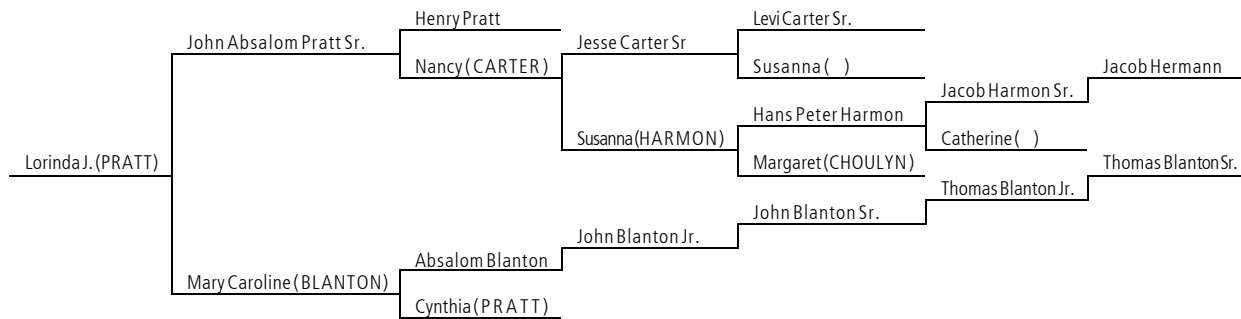
David and family arrived in Missouri after 1850 and settled in the Potosi area. Isaac had married 1st Martha (**BRYANT**) circa 1850-1855.

Malinda died 21 Feb 1931 and Isaac died a few months later on 28 Jun 1931 and both are buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

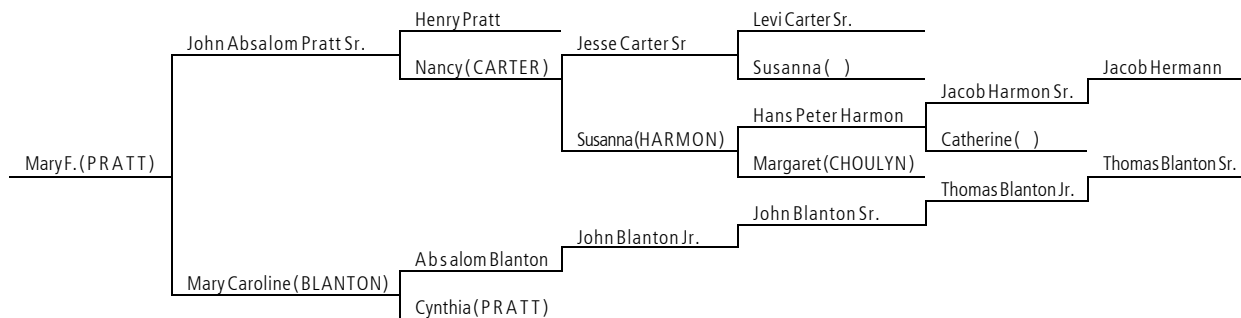
Children of Isaac & 2nd Malinda Jane (PRATT) Campbell: Nancy J., David Garfield married Orpha M. (**CAIN**), Andrew Jackson "Jack" married 1st Helena (**HELM**) 2nd Rachel M. (**STROUP**), John E., James Samuel "Sam" married 1st Martha Jane (**MILLER**) 2nd Lucy Emeline (____), Virginia E. and Laura Jane married Arthur Austin West.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

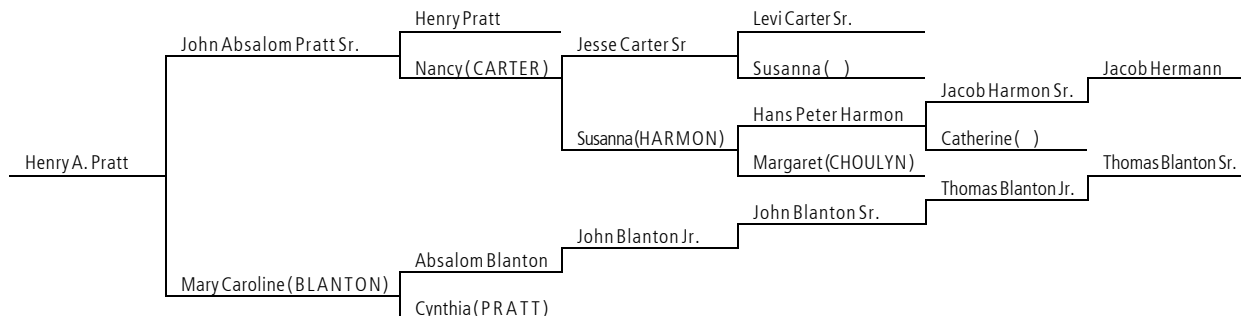
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Lorinda J. (PRATT) was born 1856 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford Co., Missouri. She appears with her parents in the 1860 & 1870 Federal Census and the 1876 Missouri census but we loose track of her after that.



Mary F. (PRATT) was born 1856/1857 in Washington Co., MO. Like her sister Nancy, she appears in the 1860 & 1870 census with her parents but we have lost track of her after that.



Henry Absalom Pratt was born July 1860 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri and on 21 Sep 1882 married Cynthia Anna (**MISSEY**) born 9 Dec 1862 to Jean "John" Baptiste & Marie "Mary" Françoise (**PIQUETTE**) Missey.

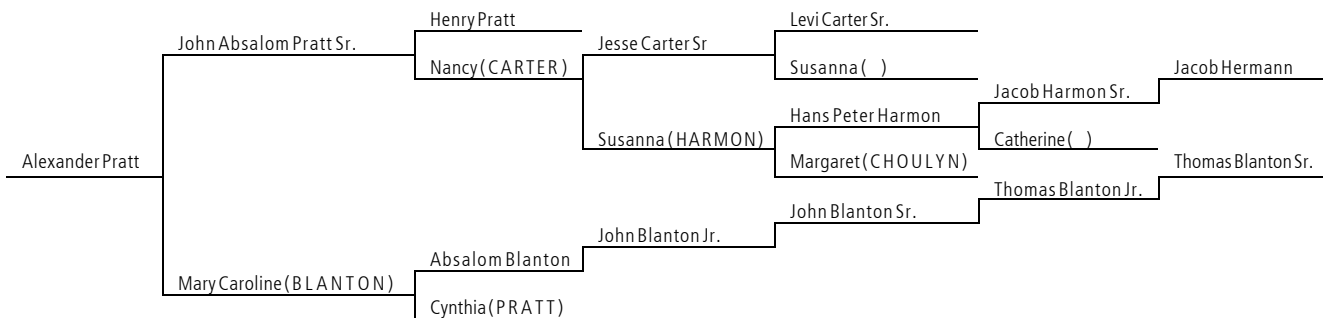
After marriage, Henry and Cynthia moved to Franklin County and after 1910 they moved to Sligo, Dent Co., MO. Henry worked in the mines. Henry died 13 Apr 1915 in Shortbend Twp, Dent Co., MO and is buried in Sligo Cemetery, Sligo, Dent Co., MO and Cynthia moved to Washington County to live with her son, James.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

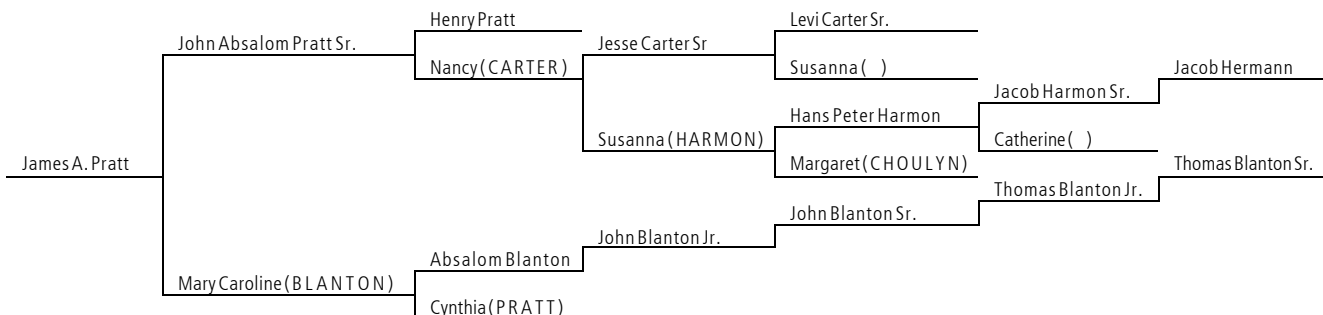
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Sometime after 1920, Cynthia moved to East Benton Twp, Christian Co., MO to live with her son, Francis Columbus where she died 31 Aug 1925 and is buried at Union Chapel Church Cemetery, East Benton Twp, Christian, Missouri.

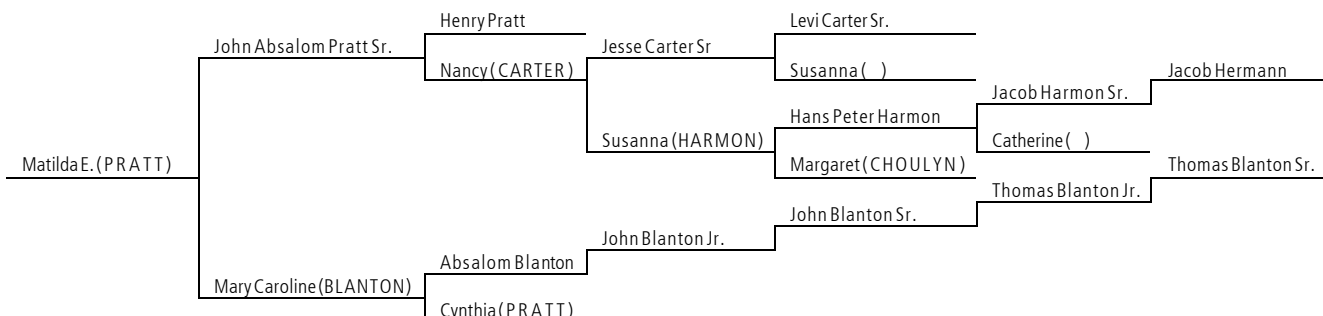
Children of Henry Absalom & Cynthia Ann (**MISSEY**) Pratt: Mary Caroline married William H. Welch, John Absalom married Christina M. (**HENSON**), Alexander married Mary Ann Elizabeth (**HENSON**), James Wesley married Bertha L. (**CALLAHAN**), Francis Columbus married Frances Evelyn "Fannie" (**HENSON**) and Minnie Ann died young.



Alexander Pratt was born 1 Jan 1861 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri. Sometime after the death of his father in 1890, he moved to Sullivan with his mother and sister. He lived in the Sullivan area until he died 2 Mar 1928. He is buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri. Looks like he never married.



James A. Pratt was born 1865 near Harrison Mills Post Office, Liberty Twp, Crawford, Missouri. He doesn't appear in the 1880 census he died between 1870-1876.



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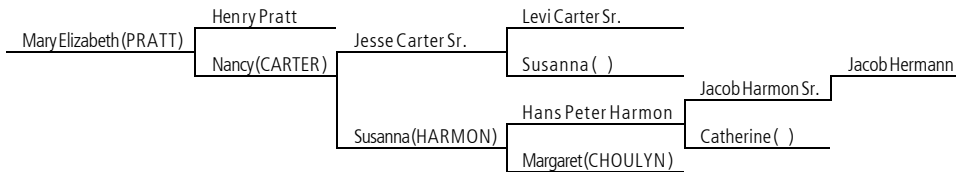
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Alfred was born 18 November 1879 in Sullivan and died 25 April 1942 in 1917 West Olive, Springfield, Greene, Missouri. Alfred and Bettie are both buried at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, Springfield, Campbell Twp, Greene, Missouri.

Children of 1st Burton & Elizabeth "Bettie" (PRATT) Cain: Burton Alexander married Shrida Jane L. (LUTTRELL).

Children of Alfred & Elizabeth "Bettie" (PRATT) Cain Lahmann: Jessie J., Lydia "Liddie", Paul married Opal Emma (FINE), Laura married Harold Breyman.



MARY ELIZABETH (PRATT) AND ELBERT SEVIER BLANTON SR. FAMILY

Mary Elizabeth (PRATT) was born Aug 1838²⁹³ in Monroe Co., TN. On all her census data she claims to have been born in Tennessee. Since we know the Pratts left Monroe County around Sep 1838, then she was probably born before September of 1838 in Monroe County.

On 24 March 1853, she married Elbert Sevier Blanton born 4 Apr 1831 in Greene Co., TN son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton. Elbert is also known as Albert, Alford, Alfred and Alphreas. Why the discrepancy in his name is unknown. As part Cherokee, the correct pronunciation of a white man's name would not be very important.

Both Mary and Elbert were living in the Blanton Mansion at the time of their marriage. They lived in Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO.

On 22 March 1864, Dr. John B. Bell²⁹⁴ was commissioned by the Union Army to give physicals to men for pension applications at Potosi, MO. This was in preparation to receive a pension for military service. These records state that "Persons belonging to the E.M.M. 32nd Reg. # 56 Elbert S. Blanton age 33-, pulse 136, Diagnosis: palpitation of heart & symptoms of phthisis."

This is all that is written about Elbert. Palpitation of heart means his heartbeats in a rapid rate. Phthisis means tuberculosis of the lungs, consumption. He is listed next to his brothers Henry H. & Alexander Blanton. It is unclear if he served in the Civil War. Nothing further is known at this time.

On 11 Aug 1870, Elbert & Mary sold the "Blanton Specular Mine" for \$700 to Austin Clark c/o Franklin City & Ross M. Crow. After Absalom's death, Elbert sold his portion of the Pratt homestead to Alexander Pratt and moved to Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford Co., MO.

²⁹³ Census: 1900 Washington Co., MO, Johnson Twsp., Page 8, taken on 15 June 1900, House 136.

²⁹⁴ These records are called "The John B. Bell Papers" and are housed at the library at the University of Missouri in the manuscript room in Rolla, MO.

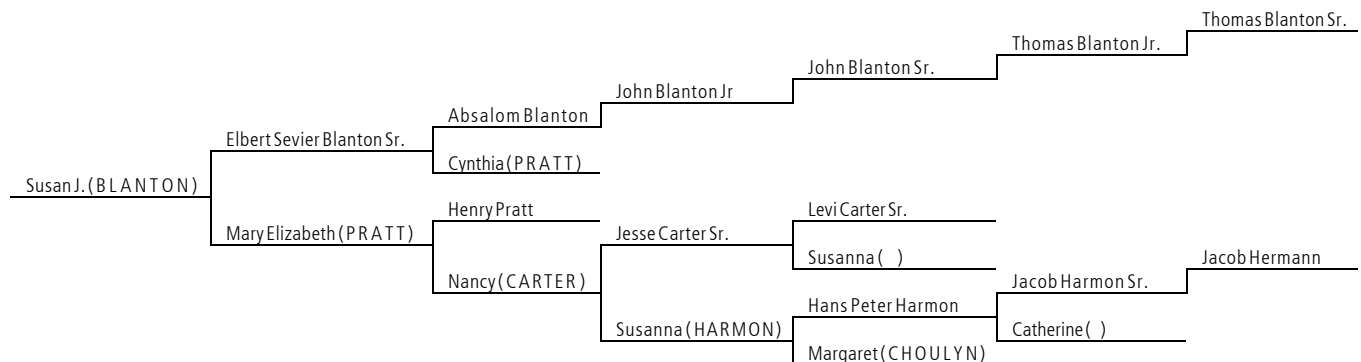
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Unknown how long they lived in Crawford County, but by the 1900 census they had moved back to Johnson Twp., Washington County and after the death of Mary in 1902, he moved to the Sullivan area in Franklin County to live with his son-in-law and daughter, Albert W. & Mary Ellen (**BLANTON**) Frazier.

Mary Elizabeth (**PRATT**) Blanton died 1902 in Washington County, probably buried at the Blanton Cemetery and Elbert Sevier Blanton Sr. died 15 May 1913 in Sullivan and is buried in the Buffalo Cemetery. His obituary was published and has been previously noted.

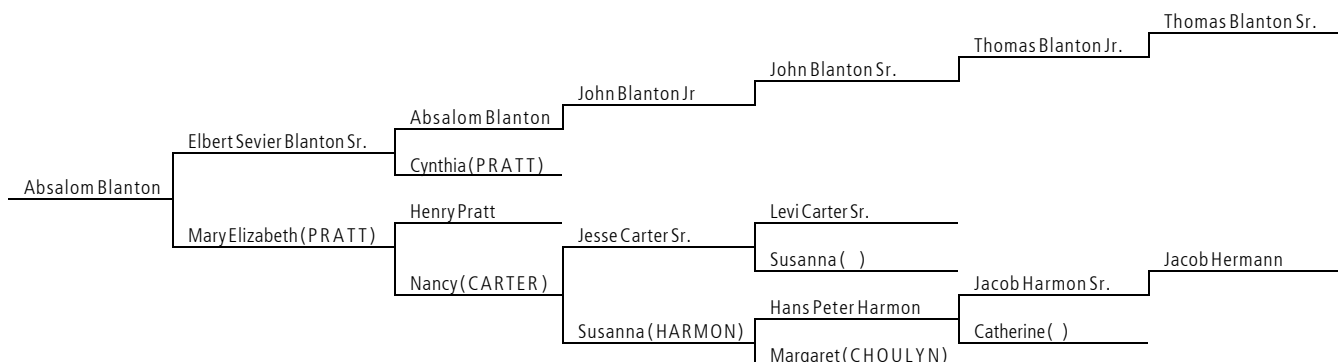
CHILDREN OF ELBERT SEVIER SR. & MARY ELIZABETH (PRATT) BLANTON FAMILY



Susan Jane (BLANTON) was born 15 Oct 1854 near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 7 Nov 1880 she married James Martin Claspill, born 7 Nov 1841 in Warren Co., KY to Thomas & Mary Elizabeth (**GRIMSLEY**) Claspill. James had been previously married but I know nothing of that family.

After marriage James and Susan settled down in Sullivan, Franklin County. James died 10 Feb 1919 and Susan died 18 Sep 1934 and both are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO

Children of James Martin & 2nd Susan Jane (**BLANTON**) Claspill: Elbert "Albert" Sevier married Mary Anne (**CAIN**), Olive Mae married Jacob "Jake" Bayless, Martin Elmer Sr. married Maude Mae (**FLAGG**) and Mary Elizabeth married 1st James Edward Light, 2nd Hugh Gilbert Headrick.



HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

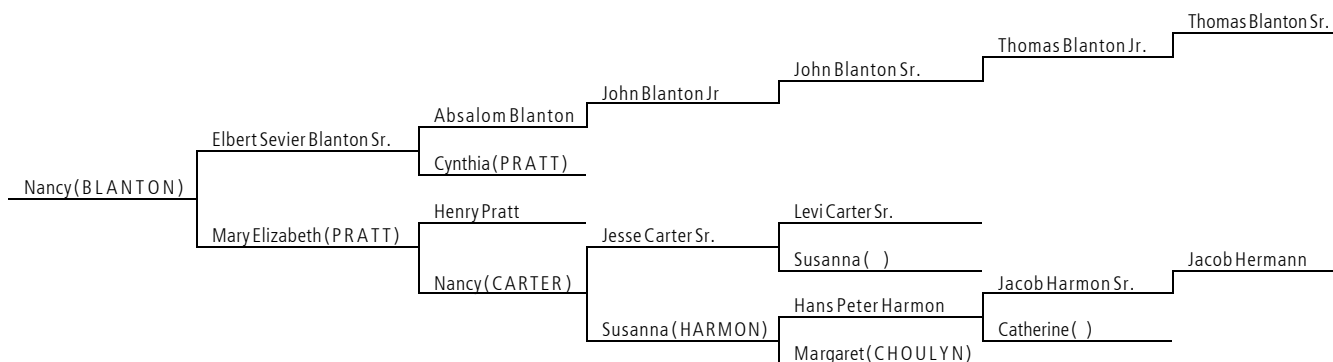
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Absalom Blanton was born 1857 near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 30 Nov 1879 he married Clara (**KEY**) born 8 January 1863 to Jasper N. & Jane (**BROOKS**) Key. Shortly after they married by 1880 they had moved to Short Bend Twp, Dent, Missouri where Absalom died 1880-1885.

Clara married 2nd John William Cain on 7 January 1885 in Washington County, Missouri. John born 24 December 1863 near Iron Mountain, Iron Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri son of George W. and Sarah "Sally" Elizabeth (**LANGLEY**) Cain. John died 24 February 1940 and Clara died 23 July 1949 both in Flat River City, Saint Francois Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri. Both buried in Parkview Cemetery, Farmington, Saint Francois, Missouri.

Children of 1st Absalom & Clara (**KEY**) Blanton: unknown.

Children of 2nd John William & Clara (**KEY**) Blanton Cain: Sophronia Jane "Fronia" married Elmer H. Elser



Nancy Caroline (BLANTON) was born 13 Mar 1858 near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 17 Aug 1881 she married Charles "Carl" E. Brandt, born 20 March 1849 in Fountain Precinct, Monroe, Illinois son of Frederick Augustus Sr. & Anna Maria Wilhelmina "Mina" (**JOBUSCH**) Brandt from Prussia.

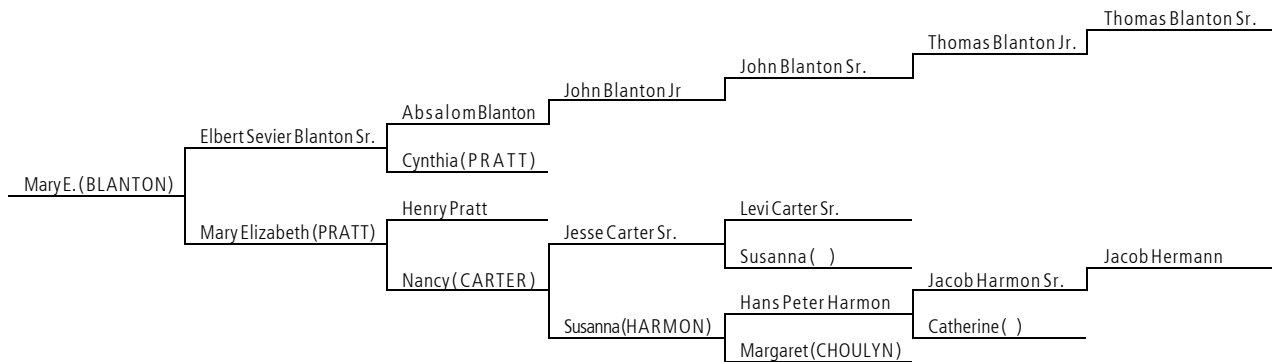
Charles married 1st Melinda (**BREWER**). Charles & Nancy lived in Washington County and sometime between 1900/1905 they moved to Franklin County.

Charles died 19 Feb 1923 and Nancy died 9 April 1931 both are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of Charles "Carl" E. & 2nd Nancy Caroline (**BLANTON**) Brandt: Walter Scott married Margaret Hattie (**SCHALLENBERG**), Bertha Ellen married Charles Lee Moss, William Carl married Daisy Maisy (**CALVERT**), Albert married Anna "Annie" (**BREMER**), Reginald McKinley married Grace Mae (**KIMBRELL**) and John.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Mary Ellen (BLANTON) was born 4 Jan 1860 near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri. The date is from her obituary. However, more factual evidence is the 1860 census, which was taken on 26 July 1860 and her mother said she was 4 months old. This would put her birth month at March 1860.

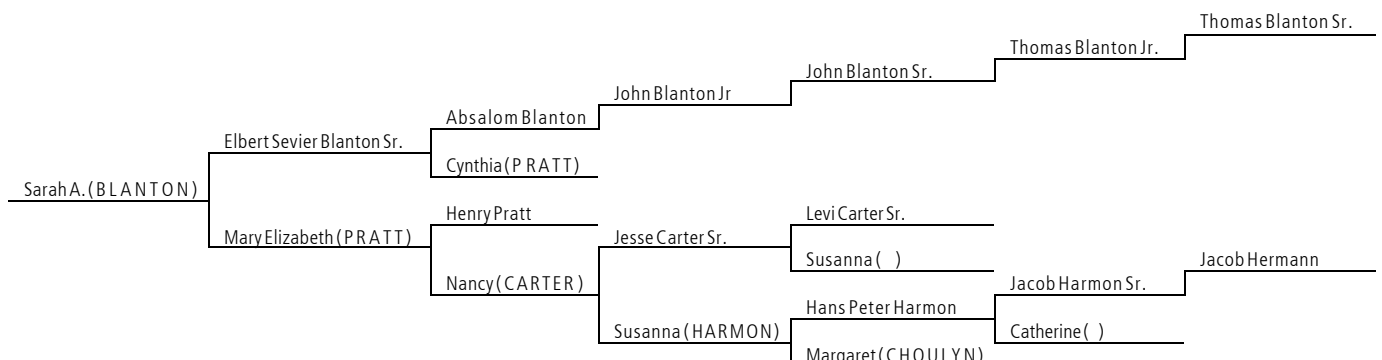
On 21 Oct 1887, she married 1st Harvey James Simmons and settled in Sullivan. They had three children. Harvey died between 1891-1900. On 7 January 1904 she married 2nd Albert W. Fraseur, born 25 April 1852 in Acid, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri son of William & () Fraseur.

Albert had been previously married to 1st Agnes Mosby (**WALTON**) on 11 February 1872. Agnes was born 18 October 1825 in Smith County, Tennessee and died 7 March 1903 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin Co., MO. She married 1st Robert B. Armistead around 1835/1838, son of William H. & Phoebe C. (**WALTON**) Armistead. Agnes is buried in the Hendrix Cemetery, Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri.

After 1910, Mary Ellen moved to Belleville, IL to live with one of her sons, according to her obituary where she died 12 Feb 1943 and was buried at the Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville, St. Clair Co., IL. Albert died 15 July 1925 and is buried on the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

Children of 1st Harvey James & Mary Ellen (**BLANTON**) Simmons: Phoebe E. married Charles White, William Seth died young and Carl Herbert married Maude (**CAMPBELL**).

Children of 2nd Albert W. & Mary Ellen (**BLANTON**) Simmons Fraseur: unknown



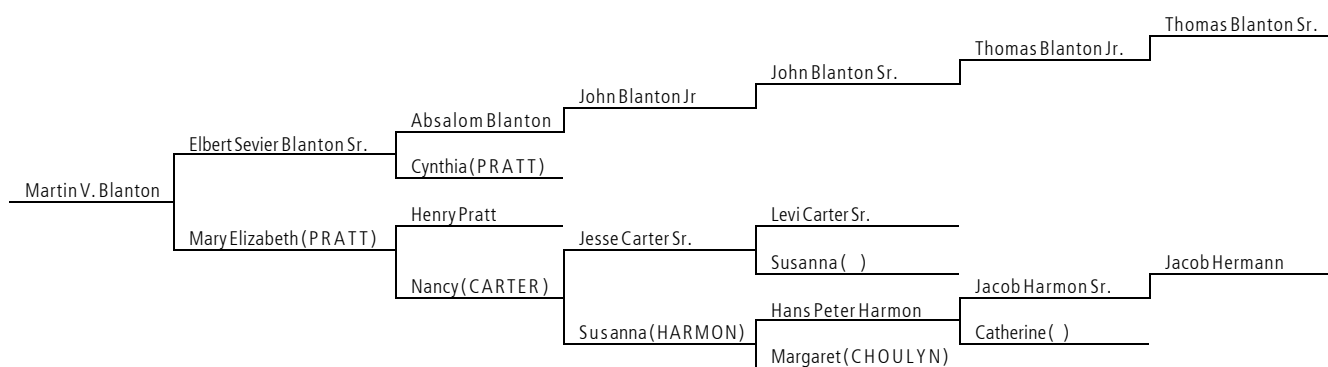
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Sarah Ann (BLANTON) was born 5 Dec 1865 near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 30 Apr 1893 married Michael Edward Dace Jr. in Franklin County. Michael was born 23 Oct 1861 near High Ridge Post Office, Meramec Twp, Jefferson, Missouri to Michael Edward Sr. & Mary Elizabeth (**WHITWORTH**) Dace. After marriage they lived in Sullivan and in 1911 moved to Brazil Creek, Washington Co., MO.

Michael died 30 Nov 1939 in Farmington, Perry Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri and Sarah died 18 Sep 1943 in Sullivan, according to their obituaries. Both are buried at the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

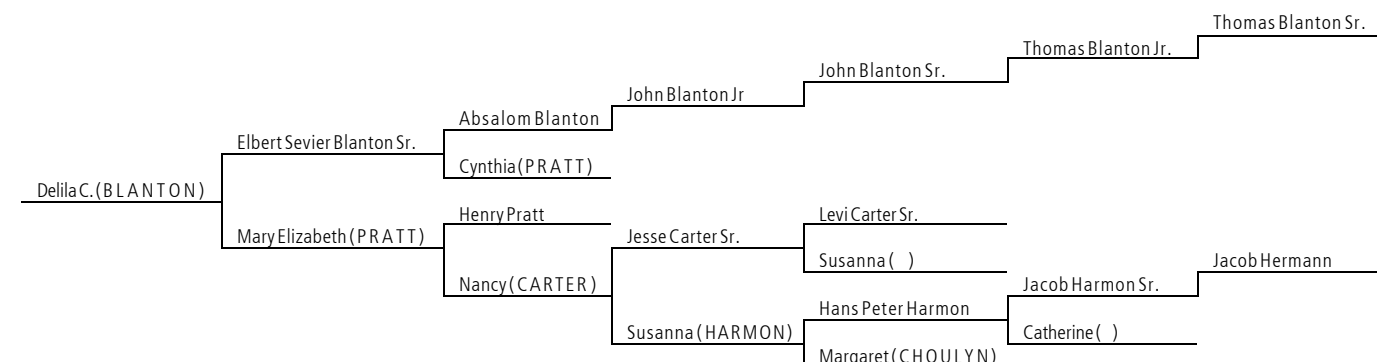
Children of Michael Edward Jr. & Sarah Ann (**BLANTON**) Dace: James Martin married Ardelia Genevieve (**HILL**), Oskar Eugene married Minerva Ann (**RECORD**), Neoma died young, Mary Elizabeth married William Reuben Summers and Ellen.



Martin Van Buren Blanton was born 13 Feb 1868 in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri and on 10 Nov 1904 in Clayton, St. Louis County, MO he married Anna (**BURTON**) born 5 Jul 1887 in Delafield, Dahlgren Twp, Hamilton, Illinois daughter of Thomas B. Jr. & Mary "Polly" (**GOIN**) Burton.

Martin worked in the acid mine outside Sullivan. Martin died on 1 Feb 1935 and is buried in the Buffalo Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO. Anna died 5 Oct 1962 and is buried in Sullivan IOOF Cemetery, Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.

Children of Martin Van Buren & Anna (**BURTON**) Blanton: Lois Grace married George Edward Doyle Jr., Minnie Etta married Thomas "Tommy" Everett Doyle Sr., Leo Franklin died young, Daisy Meriel married Homer Woodcock, and Walter Sanford married Fern Marie (**HERRON**).



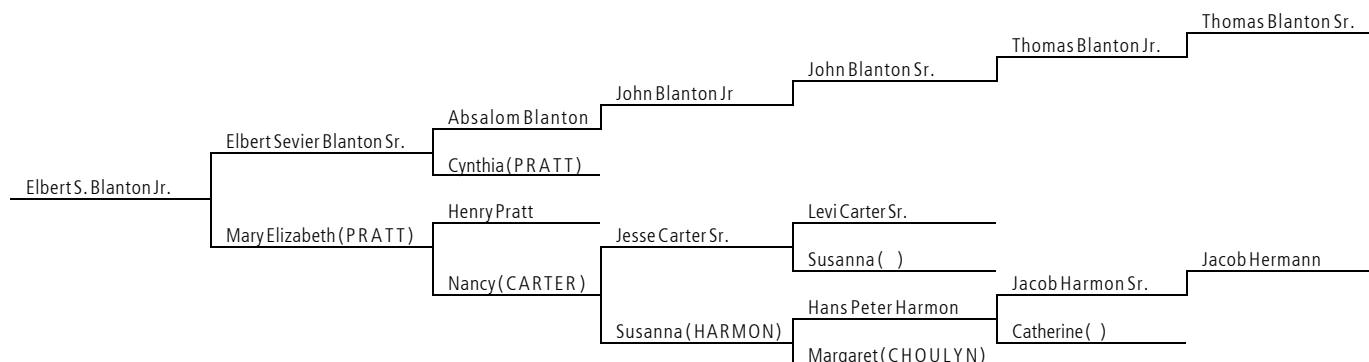
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Delilah Catherine (BLANTON) was born May 1870 near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 11 December 1892 married John Nelson Souders born 18 Mar 1872 near Maryville Post Office, Lincoln Twp, Nodaway, Missouri to Benjamin "Ben" Franklin & Eliza A. "Lizzie" (**KEPLEY**) Souders.

After marriage, John & Catherine moved to Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO. Sometime after 1900, they may have moved to Arkansas according to David Blanton, a family researcher. They are supposed to have died there.

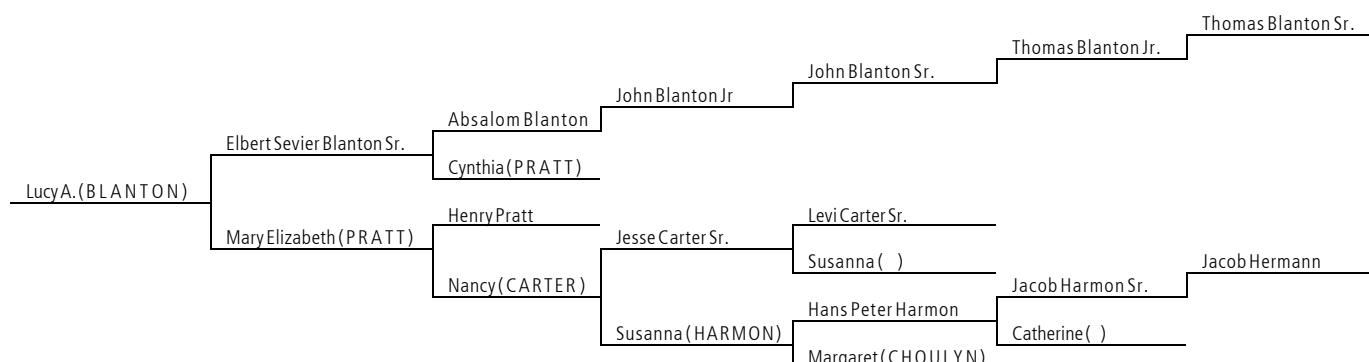
Children of John Nelson & Delila Catherine (**BLANTON**) Souders: Edna, Caric S. and twins; Earl Robert and Pearl, Charles "Charley" L.



Elbert "Albert" Sevier Blanton Jr. was born 5 May 1872 East of Sullivan in Boone Twp, Crawford, Missouri. On 17 September 1893 Elbert married Alice Mary (**GARNER**) born 14 June 1875 Boone Twp, Franklin, Missouri daughter of William Conrad & Sarah Jane (**NAUGLE**) Garner. After marriage Albert and Alice moved to Sullivan.

Alice died 1 October 1933 at 3951 McRee Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and Elbert died 10 April 1940 in Sullivan. Both are buried at the I.O.O.F Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO.

Children of Elbert "Albert" Sevier Jr. & Alice Mary (**GARNER**) Blanton: William Ellsworth married Mary (**KING**), Mary Addie married Floyd Prather, Anna "Annie" G., James E. married Nora V. (**SCHULER**) and Eva A.



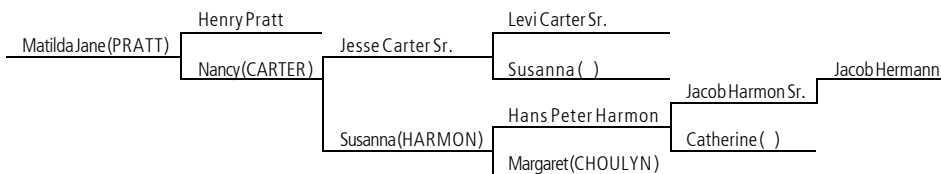
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Lucy Adeline (BLANTON) was born 23 May 1878 in Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford, Missouri and 14 April 1901 she married George Walter Moss, born Mar 1879 in Washington Co., MO to Daniel Boone & Tabitha "Telitha" Frances (**BENSON**) Moss.

George and Lucy divorced circa 1920-1930. Lucy died 31 Jul 1937 and is buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Sullivan, Franklin Co., MO with many of her children. George married 2nd Captolia "Fola" E. (**PENNINGTON**) circa 1920-1930 and he died 7 December 1949 in Beaufort Rural Route, Union, Union Twp, Franklin, Missouri and is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, 5200 Lucas & Hunt Road, Jennings, Saint Louis (county), Missouri.

Children of George Walter & 1st Lucy Adeline (**BLANTON**) Moss: Bessie L., Daniel Severe married Rose C. (____), Samuel Ferris Compus married Wilma L. (____), Ollie A.



MATILDA JANE (PRATT) AND HENRY HUBERT BLANTON FAMILY

Matilda Jane "Janie" (PRATT) was born 20 Oct 1842 in Richwoods Twp, Washington, Missouri. On 5 Jan 1857, she married Henry Hubert Blanton born 23 February 1837 in Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton.

Henry Hubert was probably born about the time Absalom made it to Franklin County in 1838. If you remember, Absalom bought 40 acres northwest of Sullivan on 3 Sep 1838.

After marriage, Henry & Matilda lived in the Johnson Twsp., Washington County area for the next 23 years.

On 22 March 1864, Dr. John B. Bell²⁹⁵ was commissioned by the Union Army to give physicals to men for pension applications at Potosi, MO. This was in preparation to receive a pension for military service. These records state that "Persons belonging to the E.M.M. 32nd Reg. # 56 HENRY H. BLANTON age 28- Diagnosis: BC palpitation of the heart & and has had mine sickness & subject to epistaxis."

(Palpitation of the heart means that his heart beats at a rapid rate. He is listed next to his brothers Elbert S. and Alexander Blanton.)

Henry and Matilda moved sometime in the 1870's to Meramec Twp, Franklin County.

Sometime between 1880 and 1900 they moved to Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford Co., MO. Henry was known to keep a live deer as a pet.

²⁹⁵ These records are called "The John B. Bell Papers" and are housed at the library at the University of Missouri in the manuscript room in Rolla, MO.

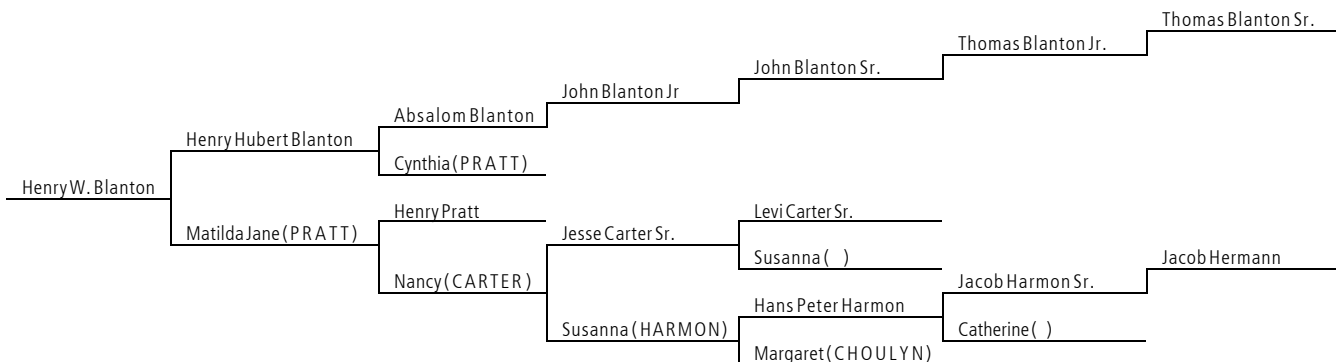
HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Henry died 21 Jan 1908 in Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford, Missouri and by 1910, Matilda moved in with her son; Charles Edward Blanton and family down at Sligo, Short Bend Twp, Dent Co., MO.

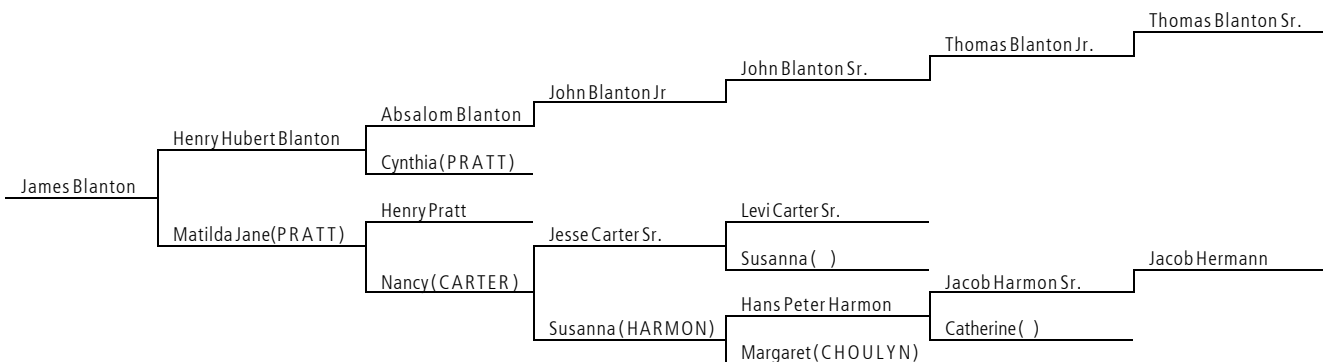
Matilda Jane "Janie" died 20 September 1910 in Short Bend Twp, Dent Co., MO. Both are buried in the Steelville Cemetery, Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford, Missouri.

CHILDREN OF HENRY HUBERT & MATILDA JANE "JANIE" (PRATT) BLANTON FAMILY



Henry W. A. Blanton was born 25 Jul 1858 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 30 Nov 1879 he married Martha (**BROOKS**) born Jun 1858 in District 2, Greenup, Kentucky daughter of James & Susan (**POWELL**) Brooks. After marriage by 1880 they had moved to Shortbend Twp, Dent Co., MO. By the 1920 census they had moved to Central City, Quapaw Twp, Ottawa, Oklahoma.

Children of Henry W. & Martha (**BROOKS**) Blanton: Annie G. married Edward Boatright; Blanche L. married _____ Level, Harry, Roy Ernest, Minnie I. married Albert Edward Nash and Henry H.



James Blanton was born 9 Feb 1861 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and around 1885/1887 he married Ava C. (**HILL**) born 12 Jan 1870 near Osage Post Office, Harmony Twp, Washington, Missouri daughter of to Benjamin F. "Ben" & Sarah Ann (**BLANTON**) Hill of Washington Co., MO.

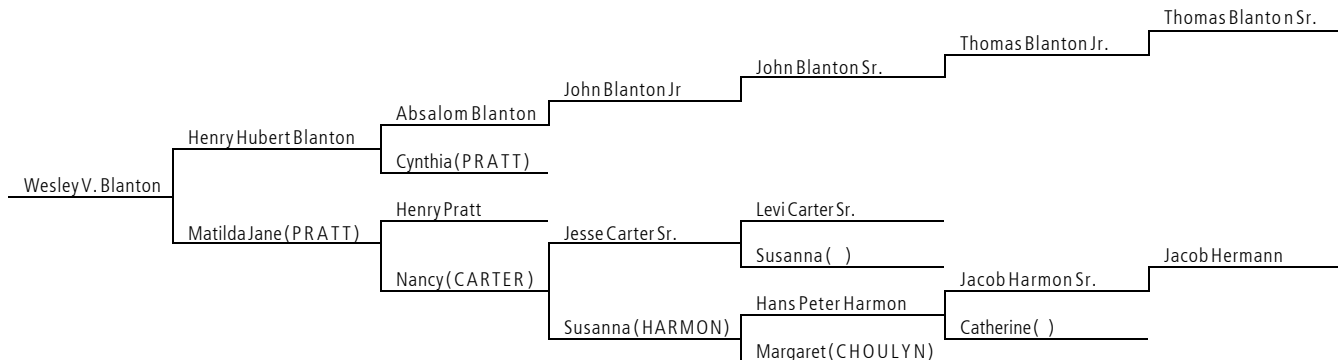
James died 11 Jun 1933 in Flat River, St. Francois Co., MO. Ava married 2nd John O'Neal.

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Ava C. (**HILL**) Blanton O'Neal died 15 Nov 1957 at 2847 Indiana Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and James and Ava are buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Leadington, St. Francois Co., MO.

Children of 1st James & Ava C. (**HILL**) Blanton: Effie J., Ida, Jesse, Howard Browning Sr. married Sarah Ann (**COLEMAN**), James Irvin married Cora Margaret "Maggie" (____) and Esther Marie married 1st Robert L. Cobb 2nd _____ Mayhugh.

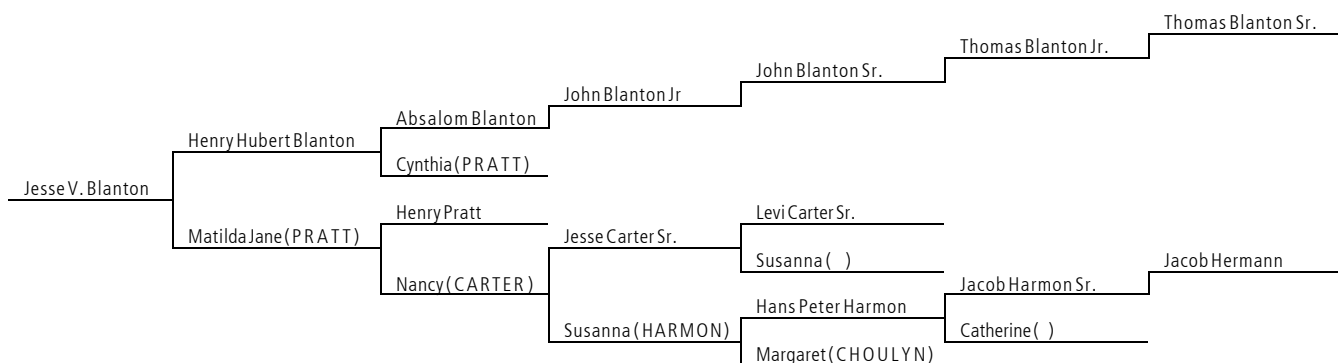


Wesley Valentine "Val" Blanton was born 26 August 1863 in Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. On 25 Apr 1886 he married Julia Ann H. (**BENTON**) born October 1855 in Benton Twp Crawford County daughter of Henry W. & Nancy F. (**KING**) Benton.

Julia (**BENTON**) had been married twice before Wesley Valentine Blanton. Her 1st husband was Hannibal Jasper Love married 8 December 1872 Crawford County, MO and her 2nd Thomas J. Williams married 8 Dec 1884 at Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford, Missouri.

Julia died 16 July 1909 in Saint Louis (city), Missouri, United States and Valentine died 24 February 1926 at 4472 Vista Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri. Valentine is buried Valhalla Cemetery, 7600 St. Charles Rock Road, Pagedale, Saint Louis (county), Missouri.

Children of 3rd Wesley Valentine & Julia Ann (**BENTON**) Blanton: Evelin "Effie" married Thomas "Tom" Kelly, Elba.



Jesse Van Buren Blanton was born 11 Aug 1869 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and his parents moved to Franklin County by 1880.

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On 20 Dec 1900, he married Nellie Zerenia Della Elizabeth (**EDWARDS**) born 23 Aug 1876 near Lacrosse Post Office, Conway Twp, Izard, Arkansas to Samuel Taylor & Julia Ann (**WILLIAMS**) Edwards.

After marriage they lived in Crawford County. Julia (**HARMON**) Blanton gave me the death date of Jesse as 20 Jul 1911. However, there seems to be a problem in that he is not with his family in the 1910 census of Crawford County.

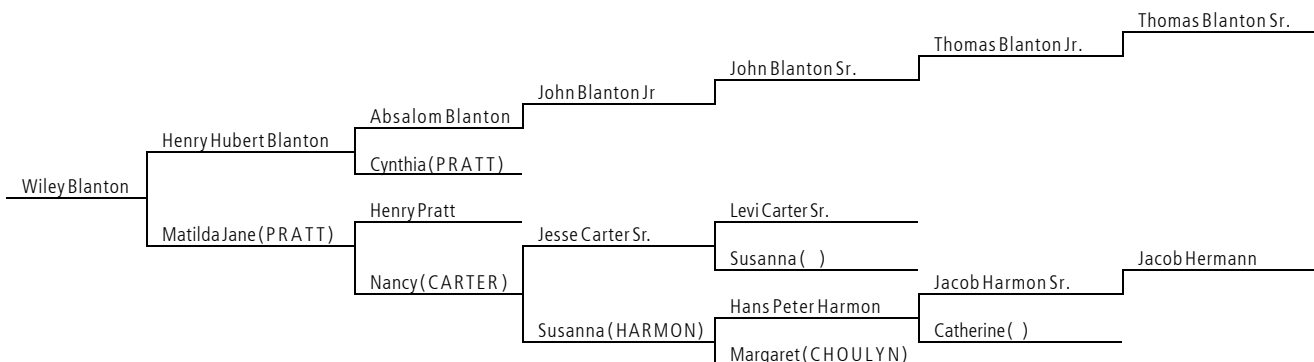
I don't know where Julia got that date, but maybe he died before the 1910 census. Or maybe he was hospitalized in a different county. Maybe St. Louis since that's where he died.

In any case after Jesse's death on 20 Jul 1911 at Vandeventer & Kentucky Ave., St. Louis (city), Missouri and is buried at Edwards Cemetery, Pasty, Courtois Twp, Crawford, Missouri.

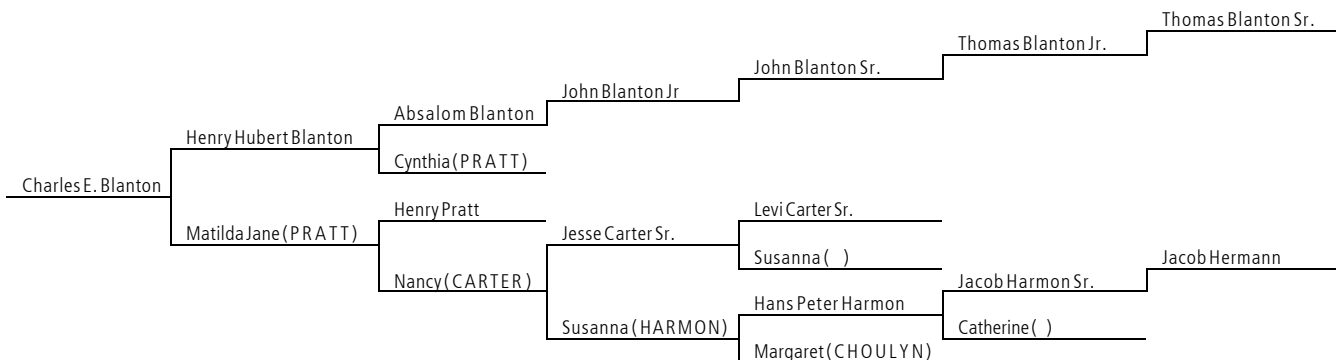
Nellie married 2nd Patrick "Paddie" J. McCoy born 22 December 1890 in Patsy, Courtois Twp, Crawford, Missouri son of Andrew Jackson "Jack" & Lucinda "Cinda" (**PEPPER**) McCoy.

Nellie died 5 Dec 1955 in Rolla, Phelps Co., MO.

Children of 1st Jesse Van Buren & Nellie Zerenia Della Elizabeth (**EDWARDS**) Blanton: Bertha Ann died young and Lloyd Jesse married Frances Eliza "Fannie" (**BROWN**).



Wiley Blanton was born 1871 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and we know nothing about him after the 1880 census.



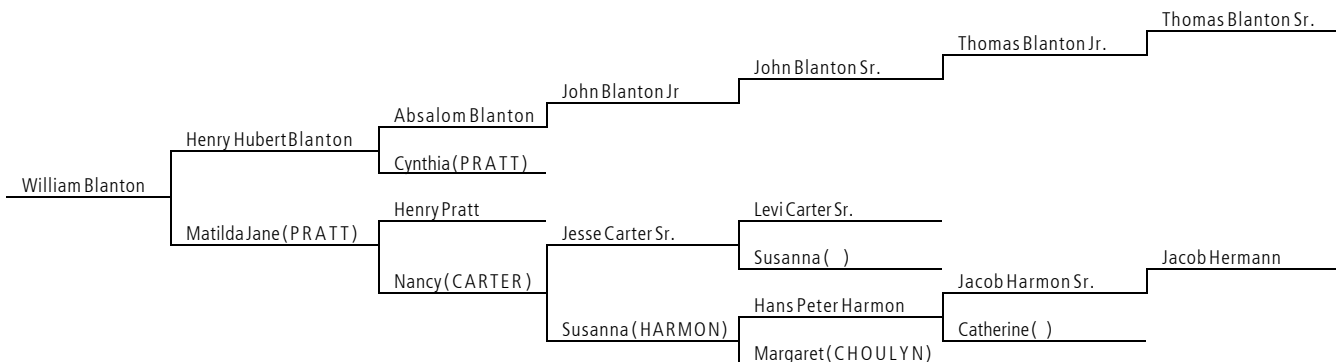
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Charles Edward "Eddy" Blanton was born 3 Apr 1872/74 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and on 8 June 1900 he married in Sligo, Short Bend Twp, Dent, Missouri, Rebecca Ann "Becky" (**EDWARDS**) born 18 February 1874 in Union Twp, Crawford, Missouri daughter of David Henry & Mary Ellen (**HAMMONDS**) Edwards. They settled in Dent County.

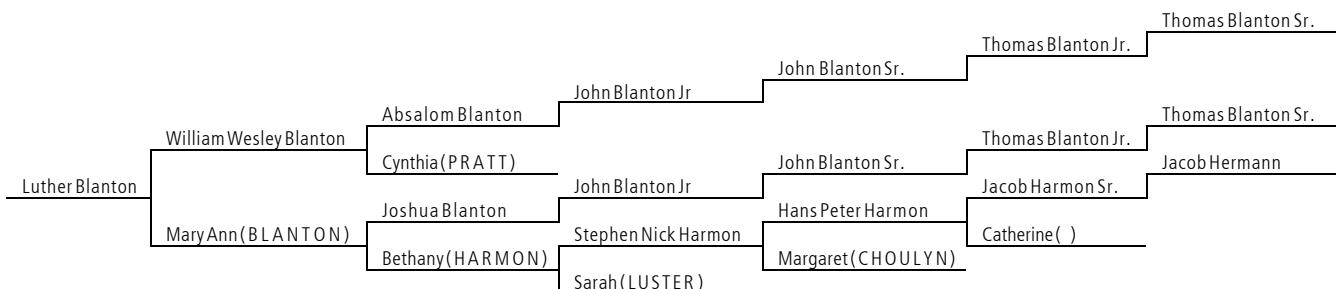
Charles died on 2 October 1963 and Rebecca died 13 October 1963 and both are buried at Sligo Cemetery, Sligo, Short Bend Twp, Dent, Missouri.

Children of Charles Edward & Rebecca Ann (**EDWARDS**) Blanton: Dema G. married John "Jack" Williams; Eva Pauline; Della Mae married Edmond F. Boyer.



William Blanton was born 28 April 1876 in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri, and he married Anna (____). She died before 1940. William died on 19 July 1944 at the Max C. Starkloff Memorial Hospital, 2220 Lemp Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri and is buried at Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, 4209 Bates Street, Saint Louis (city), Missouri.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIAL



William Luther "Joker" Blanton was born 21 Sep 1869 near the village of Hill Town, Perry Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri, died 18 October 1970 Bonne Terre, Perry Twp, Saint Francois, Missouri, son of William Wesley & Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) Blanton.

Even though Luther is not a direct descendant of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt, Geraldine Mabel (**MILLER**) Reed sent me an article about him that is of interest and supports the Cherokee ancestry connection to the Pratts.

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St. Joe's Oldest Pensioner²⁹⁶

Thirty-three years ago, June 1, 1937, Mr. Luther Blanton, 518 North Pine in Bonne Terre, Missouri, started his long life of leisure as a St. Joe pensioner.

A visit to Mr. Blanton's home this past month for an interview found him on his way to his garden spot with a small box of tomato plants. He stated that he still does some gardening at his advanced age but he is limited by poor vision.

Mr. Blanton told us that he was born on a farm near Sullivan, Missouri, September 21, 1869, the son of William Wesley and Mary Ann Blanton. St. Joe records give Mr. Blanton's birthdate as September 21, 1871, which Mr. Blanton says is in error by two years. (Give or take a year or so, there isn't anyone around to dispute his 1869 birthdate.) He is the youngest of six children; two brothers, Charley and William Lee²⁹⁷; three sisters, Sarah, Nancy and Jenny, all of whom died many years ago. His father was of French and Indian origin and his mother of Indian origin.

He recalled working on the family farm and in the timber before coming to Bonne Terre in 1901.

Mr. Blanton's name first appeared on St. Joe payrolls in November 1906 when he began work in the Bonne Terre Yard department. His jobs were those of caring for the stock on the company farm, section hand for the M.R. & B.T. Railway (a subsidiary of St. Joe at that time), crusherman, chat drag man, table man and laborer in the Bonne Terre mill. His last job prior to retirement in 1937 was that of watchman at the Bonne Terre yard. He mentioned the names of Hobbs, Kuchlin, McFarland, Donnegan, Delno and Aubuchon as some of his St. Joe foremen.

When asked to what he attributed his longevity, he said, "Indians live to be old and my mom was of the Cherokee Indian origin and lived to be over 100 years of age and I guess I take after her. I worked hard all during my life and I've never been married."

(Author unknown)

The article supports his mother and father's claim to a Native American heritage. His grandmother was Cynthia (**PRATT**) on his father's side.

This concludes the children and grandchildren of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt. The Pratt Archives has extensive information about each of these families and we will be glad to make this information available and offer suggestions for future research.

It is my hope this book answers many questions and will give you a solid foundation in which to research your family lines. Any additional information received from researchers, documents or contributions containing corrections, information or additional material will be included in a future addendum.

²⁹⁶ "St. Joe's Oldest Pensioner", St. Joe Headframe, Page 7, Third Quarter 1970.

²⁹⁷ I can't find a record of William Lee, but there is a Robert Lee in this family. Also, I don't know whom Nancy, a sister he refers to is unless Bethany was named Nancy.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS

The hard and circumstantial evidence presented within this body of work validating Henry Pratt and his sister Cynthia (**PRATT**) as Native Americans from the Cherokee tribe is conclusive.

You have been presented with historical documentation concerning the location, habits, customs and social climate of the Cherokee peoples in the 1800's.

I have supported the Native American claim with testimonies, journals, newspapers and magazine articles as well as hearsay and governmental supplantment evidence.

The very conduct and nature of the Henry Pratt family can be summed up as follows;

- Moving within Tennessee always in close residence of the heart of the Cherokee Nation.
- Failure to secure loans, bank notes or governmental grants.
- Failure to engage in commercial pursuits.
- Failure to benefit from sibling or parental assistance pertaining to economic, property or commercial endeavors.
- Missed opportunities to grab cheap Cherokee land.
- Deciding to leave their birthplace after 38 years of residency to settle in the hilly terrain of northwestern Washington County, Missouri.
- Leaving in the fall of 1838 to travel to Missouri through the winter.
- This travel time period in complete harmony with the "Trail of Tears" as is the trails and routes traveled.
- No allied families to help bear the burden of travel.
- Never owning property in Tennessee, Georgia or Missouri.
- Settling in a hilly terrain with limited resources for economic opportunity.
- Living near 5 fresh water springs and 3 large caves when prime farmland was available.
- Marrying close tribal members to preserve the integrity of the tribe or clan.
- Taking no place in white society as a leader or participant in governmental affairs in Bourbon, Sullivan, Steelville, Potosi, Union, Washington or surrounding communities.
- Some descendants of the Pratts and Blantons choosing to reside in Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma.
- Associating in close proximity with other known Native American residents in the Hamilton Valley of Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- Multiple descendants in all allied families passing down stories of Native American connections.
- Physical features in harmony with Cherokee native peoples.
- Blanton and Carter lines have proven origins of European ancestry.
- Reluctance to discuss Native American ancestry for fear of governmental reprisals.
- Lack of headstones or markers in two key cemeteries; Blanton and Hamilton located in Hamilton Hollow.
- Children and grandchildren lack formal "white" education until the 3rd or 4th generation.
- Five generations of woodsmen, outdoorsmen, hunters, farmers and entrepreneurs.

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- No ancestral stories of Pratt ancestors achieving notoriety as politicians, judges, frontiersmen, orators, authors, teachers, statesmen, or any family stories of famous Pratt relatives either directly or by association through marriage.
- No Pratt family of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Georgia or Kentucky claiming Henry or Cynthia Pratt as children, siblings or any allegiance to eastern Pratts.

For those of you who still have doubts, I am convinced as the research shifts from the Eastern Pratts to the archives of the Cherokee people in North Carolina or Oklahoma, in some file cabinet, some box, in a folder covered with dust, is a document, a testimonial of a descendant of Henry Pratt or Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton who for purposes unknown has claimed their right to their Native American Ancestry and named Henry or Cynthia Pratt as the source of their heritage.

I have shown you the way; it is now your time to complete the journey in pursuit of the truth.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, M.A.G.I.
2003



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HENRY PRATT & ALLIED FAMILIES CHRONOLOGY
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- 1539 May Spaniard Hernando Desoto landing near Tampa Bay with 600 soldiers seeking gold, taking slaves and leaving death among the natives from diseases. Travel into the southern American wilderness lasted two years before his death in 1543.
- 1567 Spaniard Juan Pardo travels into western North Carolina seeking gold.
- 1500-1700 Spanish, French, British and Germanic peoples begin to settle in North America trespassing on Native lands. Natives, through bribes or threats of extermination are forced to capitulate and allow white settlements.
- 1690 *Thomas Blanton Jr.* is born to *Thomas Sr. & Jane (McGUFFEY) Blanton* on the Blanton Farm, Caroline County, Virginia Colony.
- 1693 *Jacob Harmon Sr.* is born to *Jacob & Magdalena (ROLLER) Hermann* in Kusel, Palatinate, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.
- 1710-1720 *Thomas Blanton Jr. & ()* are married in Virginia.
- 1715 Cherokees in conflict with the British inhabitants of Charleston, South Carolina over slavery. The whites were selling Cherokee slaves to the West Indies.
- 1719 Jan 3 *Jacob Hermann Harmon Sr. son of Jacob & Magdalena (ROLLER) Hermann & Anna Catherina (PAUSCHEN)* are married in Bergen, Rheinland-Pfalz Lande, Germany.
- 1721 Cherokees forced to make first land cession to British. A strip of land between the Saluda, Santee and Edisto rivers ceded to the Charleston colony. In exchange the colony quit selling Cherokee slaves and the practice of unfair trade practices.
- 1720-1725 The Carter Clan leaves Wales for New Jersey.
- 1730 Cherokee delegation led by Chief Moytoy brought to London to "enter into Articles of Friendship and Commerce with his Majesty", King George II.
- 1733 Jan *Hance Peter Harmon Sr.* is born to *Jacob Harmon Sr. & Anna Catherina (PAUSCHEN)* in Kusel, Palatinate, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.
- 1733 Sep 28 *Jacob Harmon Sr. & family* sail for America aboard the English Brigantine ship "Richard and Elizabeth" from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, PA. Hance was 9 months old.
- 1733-1734 The Harmons settle in Augusta County, Virginia Colony.
- 1734 *John William Blanton Sr.* is born to *Thomas Jr. & () Blanton* in Caroline County, Virginia Colony.
- 1736 First Christian Mission in Cherokee territory established at Tellico by Christian Priber, a French Jesuit.
- 1736-1740 *Levi Carter Sr.* is born in Gloucester Co., New Jersey Colony.
- 1738 Smallpox epidemic killed half of the Cherokee nation.
- 1755 At the battle of Taliwa with the Creeks, a young teenage girl by the name of Nanyih picked up her fallen husband's rifle and rallied the outnumbered Cherokees to victory. Later married Bryant Ward, her name became Nancy Ward.
- 1756 The British in the Overhill country of the Cherokees established Fort Prince George.
- 1759 *Hance Peter Harmon Sr. son of Jacob Hermann Harmon Sr. & Anna Catherina (PAUSCHEN)* marries *Margaret (CHOULYN)* probably in Augusta County, Virginia Colony.

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- 1759 Dec After conflicts with the British, a Cherokee delegation came to Fort Prince George for peace talks. Betrayed by the British, the delegation is held captive in exchange for those guilty of killing whites.
- 1760 Feb 16 Chief Oconostota of the Cherokees persuaded Lt. Richard Coytmore, commander of the fort to meet with him outside the fort. During the meeting Cherokees killed Coytmore. The British in the fort killed the Cherokee prisoners which outraged the Cherokees and a siege on the fort lasted several months.
- 1760 Mar 20 Cherokees also attacked Fort Loudoun, which led to the surrender of the fort.
- 1761 Dec After retaliation by the British and much loss of life, Chief Attakullakulla of the Cherokees signed a treaty of peace with the British Charleston Colony.
- 1763 Oct 7 King George III establishes royal decree declaring the Proclamation Line. All British settlement and land grants were forbidden west of the crest of the Appalachian Mountains. This is to protect the Native's land rights and to stop white encroachments. This was very unpopular with the settlements and businesses such as the Loyal Land Company, the Virginia land companies and the Ohio Company, whose plans for land speculation in the west, were temporarily thwarted. Nevertheless, this did not stop the settlers from ignoring the decree and invading Cherokee land holdings.
- 1764 *Jacob Harmon Sr.* dies at Peaked Mountain, near McGaheysville, Augusta, Virginia Colony killed by natives.
- 1765 *Hance Peter Harmon Sr.* & family move to Bedford County, Virginia Colony.
- 1765-1767 *Levi Carter Sr. & Susanna (ANDERSON)* are married probably at Point Marion, Monongalia County, Virginia Colony.
- 1765-1770 The Carter clan ignores the Kings decree and moves first to Pennsylvania then to Monongalia County, Virginia...fighting Native Americans for land ownership.
- 1769 William Bean family from Virginia, first family to settle the Watauga Valley in northeast Tennessee in violation of the Proclamation Line.
- 1769-1772 *John William Blanton Sr.* son of *Thomas Jr. & (_____) Blanton* marries *Rebecca (HOBBS)* probably in Powhattan County, Virginia Colony.
- 1770-1771 British enter into treaty with the Cherokees establishing borders and rights of Cherokees to hunt on leased land to the whites and no more whites would settle in the area especially in the Watauga Valley area.
- 1772 May The Wataugans sign "Written Articles of Association" which officially established the Watauga Settlement.
- 1770's Due to white encroachments, the Cherokees begin a 15-year war with the invaders over land ownership in the eastern portion of Tennessee and southwestern portion of North Carolina.
- 1774 *Jesse Carter Sr.* is born to *Levi Sr. & Susanna (ANDERSON) Carter* in Arnettsville, Monongahela, Virginia Colony.
- 1775 *Susanna (HARMON)* is born to *Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (CHOULYN) Harmon* near North Fork and Otter River, Bedford, Virginia Colony.
- 1775 Mar 17 Daniel Boone acting as agent for the Transylvania Company with The Watauga Valley Settlement swindles 20 million acres from the Cherokees for \$2000 pounds sterling and \$8000 worth of wagons and provisions. This treaty forfeits the entire Cumberland River watershed, plus the southern half of the Kentucky River watershed consisting of 20 million acres. For an additional \$2000, the Wataugans purchase their land instead of leasing from the Cherokees.

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A week after the treaty signing, Daniel Boone forged a trail into Kentucky and founded Boonesborough with other settlers. The royal governors of Virginia and North Carolina proclaimed the sale illegal, but the settlers ignored the commands of the colonial government.

- 1775 The Wataugans side with the Americans against the British.
- 1775 War is declared on the British Crown by the American Settlers. Main dispute over land settlement. Most Native tribes side with the British who will honor the King's decree of 1763. Whites give no assurances for Native land ownership. Some of the Harmon, Carter, Blanton, Kimberling and Missey families all joined the Americans in the Revolution but not any of the Pratts.
- 1776 May A fourteen-man delegation of Shawnee, Ottawa, Mohawk, Delaware, and Mingo warriors arrive in the Overhill (eastern Tennessee) area to seek an alliance to fight the white man's encroachment on Native lands. The Cherokees joined the alliance against the Americans.
- 1776 During the war, some of the Carters migrate to Surry County, North Carolina Colony, joining the American forces to fight the British and Native Americans.
- 1777 Washington County, North Carolina is created. The Johnson City-Jonesborough-Washington County region has a colorful and fascinating history. The county was established in 1777 as Washington County, North Carolina and was named in honor of General George Washington while the Revolutionary War was underway. At that time, "Washington County" included the geographic area that later became the **entire State of Tennessee**. The county also was part of the "State of Franklin " from 1784 through 1788 (an attempt to create the fourteenth state) prior to Tennessee becoming a state in 1796.
- 1777 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Harmon* is born to *Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (CHOULYN) Harmon* near North Fork and Otter River, Bedford, Virginia Colony.
- 1777-1779 *John William Blanton Sr.* moves family to Washington County, North Carolina Colony, and a portion later became Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1780 Some of the Carters, Kings & Barton's participate in the battle for Kings Mountain in North Carolina against the Natives and British.
- 1780-1781 Some of the Carters decide to flee middle North Carolina because of safety fears for their families due to their allegiance to the American cause. They fled to the western part of the state, Washington County, North Carolina colony. This territory becomes Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1780 *John William Blanton Sr.* receives land grant on Powell River, Lee County, Virginia Colony.
- 1780 *Sarah Mary (LUSTER)* is born to *William & Mary (_____) Luster* in Blacksburg, Montgomery, Virginia Colony.
- 1783 Official end of the American Revolutionary War. In London, as political support for the war plummeted after Yorktown, British Prime Minister Lord North resigned in March 1782. In April 1782, the Commons voted to end the war in America. Preliminary peace articles were signed in Paris at the end of November, 1782; the formal end of the war did not occur until the Treaty of Paris (for the U.S.) and the Treaties of Versailles (for the other Allies) were signed on September 3, 1783. The last British troops left New York City on November 25, 1783, and the United States Congress of the Confederation ratified the Paris treaty on January 14, 1784.

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- 1783 Greene County, North Carolina was created from Washington County, North Carolina. Greene County is rooted in the "Notchucky settlement," which was established by pioneer Jacob Brown on land leased from the Cherokee in the early 1770s. The Notchucky settlement aligned itself with the Watauga settlement in modern Elizabethton. Frontiersman Davy Crockett was born in Greene County in 1786.
- 1783-1784 Carter's establish a fort near Albany in Greene County, Tennessee and begin to dominate the area. Cherokees still at war with whites over encroachment issues.
- 1784 Watauga Settlers declare a new State of Franklin in eastern Tennessee in protest after Congress seizes the Wataugan & Nolichucky settlements.
- 1785 Nov New American Government wanting to stabilize relations with the Cherokees signs a new treaty at Hopewell, South Carolina returning land in the southern part of the State of Franklin including the capital town of Greeneville. This gives the Cherokees the right to harass the white settlements if they did not leave six months after the treaty date. The whites refusing to leave, engaged into battles and loss of life with the Cherokees. This resulted in the Treaty of Coyatee in which the Cherokees were forced to surrender all their lands north of the Little Tennessee River.
- 1787-1791 *Hance Peter Harmon Sr.* and family moved from near the North Fork and of Otter River in Bedford, Virginia, United States to the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, Greene, North Carolina, United States.
- 1788 May Eleven members of the John Kirk family were killed outside Knoxville by Chickamaugans and Cherokees. In retaliation the whites killed Chief Old Abram and several others under a flag of truce and burned the Cherokee Capital, Chota. Chief Old Tassel moved the capital of the Cherokees from Chota to Ustanali, near present-day Calhoun, Georgia, which the whites called New Echota.
- 1791 Treaty of Holston defined land boundaries between the Cherokees and the United States. Gave rights to Cherokees to enforce and punish trespassers under Cherokee law and provide resources to help turn the Cherokees from a hunter-warrior society to an agrarian one; termed "civilize". The purpose of the "civilization" of the Cherokees was to obtain more of the Cherokee land for white settlement.
- 1795 Congress passed the "Factory Act", which provided for the establishment of trading houses within native territory. Used as fortified forts against the natives.
- 1796 Jun 1 Name changed from Franklin to Tennessee becomes newest state admitted to the Union. The State of Tennessee is rooted in the Watauga Association, a 1772 frontier pact generally regarded as the first constitutional government west of the Appalachians. What is now Tennessee was initially part of North Carolina, and later part of the Southwest Territory. Tennessee was admitted to the Union as the 16th state on June 1, 1796.
- 1798 Jan 9 *Jesse Carter* son of *Levi Sr. & Susanna (ANDERSON) Carter* marries *Susanna (HARMON)* daughter of *Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (CHOULYN) Harmon* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1799 Jul 23 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Harmon* son of *Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (CHOULYN) Harmon* and *Sarah (LUSTER)* daughter of *William & Mary (____)* Luster marries in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1800-1803 *Henry Pratt* is born to a Cherokee Chief in eastern Tennessee.

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- 1800 *John William Blanton Sr.* moves his family to Clover Fork, Knox County, Kentucky.
- 1801 The Moravians begin to establish missions on Cherokee lands.
- 1801 *Joshua Blanton* is born to *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* in Clover Fork, Knox, Kentucky.
- 1802-1803 *Nancy (CARTER)* is born to *Jesse Sr. & Susanna (HARMON) Carter* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1802-1803 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* the 12th of 13 children is born to *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* in Clover Fork, Knox, Kentucky.
- 1802 Georgia legislation wanting all Native Americans outside the state border, with the intent of stealing native lands, enter an agreement with President Jefferson to enact a treaty, which became the Georgia Compact. Georgia would cede to the United States all land ownership past her boundaries to the Mississippi River and Jefferson would not honor Native American land ownership agreements. This agreement effectively gave Georgia the right to steal Native American land holdings promised to the Native Americans by the American government and their emissaries outlined in previous treaties.
- 1802 Congress provides funds to "educate and civilize" Indians. Jefferson sends engineers, schoolteachers and other educators to domesticate the Native Americans. The Cherokees reluctantly accept the white man's ways in an attempt to be compatible with the whites.
- 1802 Georgia holds first land lottery created to cheat Cherokees, by law, to forfeit their lands or face imprisonment or death.
- 1802 Jun 16 Creeks cede land in the Treaty of Fort Wilkinson.
- 1803 Apr 30 President Thomas P. Jefferson purchases "The Louisiana Purchase" without the approval of the Native Americans. The Louisiana Purchase agreement with France stipulates that no land may be taken from the current inhabitants without current inhabitants approval. Settlers, with Jefferson's blessing ignore this stipulation of the agreement.
- 1803 Louisiana Territory Act launches intent to remove Eastern Indians to new areas west of the Mississippi River.
- 1804 *Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON)* is born to *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr. & Sarah (LUSTER) Harmon* on the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark along with their Corps of Discovery begin the explorations of the Louisiana Purchase; the first American exploration of the lands west of the Mississippi river. The real intent of this expedition is to discover the wealth of natural resources and to keep the Spanish from seizing additional territory. An ulterior motive was to discover the types of Native Americans occupying the territory, i.e., which tribes were hostile and which tribes could be swayed to fight against their own race and help the whites to divide and conquer the west. It was no accident that the Sioux and the Apache were the last to be defeated by the whites; they were the most ferocious of the tribes.
- 1806 After losing the American Revolutionary war, Cherokees under threat of war and death, ceded territory in Tennessee and Alabama to the American Government.
- 1806 The War Department, under the direction of President Jefferson establishes the Office of Superintendent of Indian Trade to oversee federal trading houses with the Indians.

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The intent is to sell goods and provisions on credit to the Native Americans establishing a debt ceiling so high as to force the Natives to trade debt payment for land. Under this method, millions of acres are swindled from the Native Americans with Jefferson's approval.

- 1807 Georgia holds second land lottery created to cheat Cherokees, by law, to forfeit their lands or face imprisonment and/or death.
- 1808 Osages cede much of their land in Missouri and Arkansas.
- 1809 Treaty of Fort Wayne leads Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee to take up arms against the United States as policies implemented by Indiana Gov. William Henry Harrison lead to loss of 2.5 million acres of Indian territories.
- 1809 Sequoyah, also known as George Gist, son of Nathaniel Gist is born in 1760 at Tuskegee, five miles outside of Chota, begins work on a Cherokee syllabary.
- 1810 *Cynthia (PRATT)*, sister to *Henry Pratt* is born in Greene County, Tennessee to a Cherokee Chief.
- 1810 *John William Blanton Sr.* in the 1810 census of Knox County, Kentucky.
- 1810-1812 *Hance Peter Harmon Sr.* son of *Jacob Hermann Harmon Sr. & Anna Catherina (PAUSCHEN)* and spouse of *Margaret (CHOULYN) Harmon* died near Albany, Greene County, Tennessee. He died after 24 January 1810 witness to a property transaction and before the Greene County 1812 tax list.
- 1810 Tecumseh tries to recruit the large Southern tribes, Creeks, Choctaw, Chickasaws, Seminole, Cherokee but is opposed by Choctaw Chief Pushmataha. In a meeting of a Choctaw grand council, Tecumseh is expelled from Choctaw country. In the War of 1812 Tecumseh will be commissioned a brigadier general in the British army and lead hundreds of Indians in battle in the Great Lakes region, while Pushmataha will be commissioned a brigadier general and lead up to eight hundred Choctaws in Andrew Jackson's U.S army in the South in battles against the Creeks, the Seminoles and the British.
- 1810 War of 1812 begins; most natives align themselves with the British due to white encroachment. The Cherokees also reject Tecumseh's plans and side with the Americans.
- 1813 Aug 21 Washington County, Missouri Territory organized. The county was officially organized on August 21, 1813, and was named in honor of George Washington, the first President of the United States.
- 1813 The Creek War begins involving a variety of conflicts with American forces. The war extends into 1814 and involves such major conflicts as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (27 March 1814) where eight hundred Creeks, also known as "red sticks" die in the fighting. The war ends with the Treaty of Fort Jackson (9 August 1814) when the tribe cedes twenty-two million acres.
- 1813 Jackson, facing imminent defeat by the Creeks in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend asks for help from the Cherokees. Believing Jackson's words, that he is a friend of the Cherokee, decides to assist him and helps defeat the Creeks. Indian maiden during war falls to protect her child who later grows up to become Osceola, the undefeated Great Chief of the Seminoles.
- 1815 Jan 8 Choctaws led by Chief Pushmataha assist American troops to defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans.
- 1816 Metis and settlers in Canada's Red River Valley clash over farmland in a conflict that becomes known as the Selkirk incident.

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- 1816 Mar President Madison negotiates with the Cherokees, led by Chief Ridge to establish boundary for the Cherokee nation and allow the Cherokees to build roads and establish taverns. Also, a second treaty on the same day sold all the Cherokee land holdings in South Carolina to the Americans for \$5,000.
- 1816 Sep 14 Jackson angry about the treaty in March negotiates a new treaty from a minor faction of the Cherokees through bribes to eight Cherokee chiefs, to force them to cede 1.3 million acres for \$5000, plus a large annuity. The rest of the Cherokee tribe rejects this treaty. Jackson and the American government ignore their protest.
- 1817 First Seminole war begins. Osceola uses the Florida everglades as his base and along with diseases; wild animals, poisonous snakes and alligators overcome the American soldiers and force them to retreat into northern Florida.
- 1817 May First treaty with Cherokees proposing removal west of the Mississippi River in exchange for territory in the south. Also, establishes 640 acres for a reserve to any Cherokee who renounces his native affiliations and becomes an American citizen. Those who agreed to this plan settled in North Carolina and were immune from the 1835 Removal Act.
- 1817 May Cherokees create a National Committee in an effort to prevent questionable treaties gained by Jackson and others through bribes.
- 1817 Jun 20 Jackson along with Meriweather of Georgia and McMinn of Tennessee treaty with lesser chiefs to move them to Arkansas. Between 3500 to 5000 Cherokees made the trip including Chief Sequoyah.
- 1818 Franklin County, Missouri Territory organized. Though still recognized as the part of the Missouri Territory, in 1812 there were 5 counties; St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and New Madrid. By 1813, Washington County was created and in 1816, Howard County followed by Jefferson, Franklin, Wayne, Lincoln, Madison, Montgomery, Pike and Cooper were created in 1818.
- 1818 First Protestant missionaries arrive among the Choctaws and establish schools, a total of eleven by 1830 (the schools are quickly reestablished after removal by 1835). By the early nineteenth century, Choctaws already have influential, educated, mixed-blood families descended from white traders who intermarried within the tribe. The mixed-blood families produce tribal leaders who are loyal Choctaw patriots in disputes and negotiations with the United States throughout the nineteenth century.
- 1818 Nov John Ross accepted the position of President of the National Committee. This prestigious position made him the official spokesman for the Cherokee peoples.
- 1819 Gold is discovered in the Cherokee Nation, starting the Southern Gold Rush and causing greedy Georgians to demand Cherokee forced removal.
- 1819 Jul 15 *John William Blanton Sr.* granted 50 acres on Clover River, Harlan County, Kentucky
- 1819 Oct 18 Choctaws exchange some land in Mississippi for land west of the Mississippi River under the Treaty of Doak's Stand.
- 1819 Harlan County, Kentucky created from Knox County, Kentucky
- 1819 *John William Blanton Sr.* tax list Knox Co., KY to be included in Harlan Co., KY.

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- 1819 Nov 13 Monroe County, Tennessee created...named after James Monroe. Monroe County was established shortly after the signing of the Calhoun Treaty by the Cherokee in 1819, which relinquished the area to the United States. The Calhoun Treaty ceded all remaining Cherokee claims north of the Tennessee and Hiawassee Rivers, except a narrow strip in the mountains along the North Carolina line, between the Hiawassee River and the Little Tennessee River.
- 1820 Georgia holds third land lottery cheating Cherokees, by law. to forfeit their lands or face imprisonment or death.
- 1820 Oct 3 *Henry Pratt marries and Nancy (**CARTER**) daughter of Jesse Sr. & Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter in Greene County, Tennessee. Nancy's Uncle Peter Harmon puts up the \$2500 marriage bond. Some of Nancy's family does not support the marriage due to Henry Pratt's Cherokee heritage.*
- 1820 *John William Blanton Sr. family in Harlan County, Kentucky census.*
- 1821 Aug 4 *Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) is born to Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt in Greene County, Tennessee.*
- 1821 Aug 10 State of Missouri Created. The land that is now Missouri was acquired from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and became known as the Missouri Territory on June 4, 1812. The southeastern portion of the territory was admitted into the union as the State of Missouri the 24th state on August 10, 1821. As other states were created from it's huge territorial boundaries, Missouri settled on its present shape as it is found today.
- 1821 Sequoyah finalizes the Cherokee alphabet.
- 1821 Sequoyah's alphabet of the Cherokee language is spoken and written by thousands.
- 1821 Georgia holds fourth land lottery cheating Cherokees, by law, to forfeit their lands or face imprisonment or death.
- 1821 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr. and family move from Greene County, Tennessee to Monroe County, Tennessee and are reported on the tax roll of 1821.*
- 1821-1825 *John William Blanton Sr. moved from Harlan County, Kentucky to Greene County, Tennessee.*
- 1822 Sep 30 *James Pratt is born to Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt in Greene County, Tennessee.*
- 1824 Jan 26 *Joshua Blanton son of John William Sr. & Rebecca (**HOBBS**) Blanton marries 1st Margaret "Peggy" (**McFARLAND**) in Greene County, Tennessee.*
- 1824 President John C. Calhoun establishes the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the War Department; Congress ultimately recognizes it in 1832.
- 1824 First Choctaw lawyer, James Lawrence McDonald, is admitted to the bar, after studying law in the office of Judge John McLean in Ohio (who later became a Justice of the Supreme Court). The Choctaws had sent McDonald to the last when he was fourteen to be privately tutored by the Rev. Dr. Carnahan (who later became president of Princeton College). McDonald negotiates the Treaty of Washington of January 1825 for the Choctaws, prompting Commissioner of Indian Affairs Thomas McKinney to say, "I found him so skilled in the business of his mission.... as to make it more of an up-hill business than I had ever before experienced in negotiating with Indians. I believe Mr. Calhoun [U .S. Secretary of War] thought so too."

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- McDonald refused to listen to new U.S. treaty demands until the government had first fulfilled all its unmet obligations from previous Choctaw treaties, many of which were satisfied by new monetary awards to support Choctaw schools.
- 1824 State of Missouri passes legislation-prohibiting whites from conducting business with Native Americans. Natives are prohibited from hunting in the State of Missouri.
- 1824-1825 *Joshua Blanton* family moves from Greene County, Tennessee to 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1824-1825 *Margaret "Peggy" (McFARLAND) Blanton* wife of *Joshua Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* died in either Greene County, Tennessee or Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1825 *Jesse Carter Sr* and family and some Harmons begin moving into Monroe County, Tennessee. Gold was discovered in Monroe County, the first gold discovery in American history and this transformed Monroe County into a busy location for fortune seekers. After selling his land to Abraham Weems on 25 April 1825, *Jesse Carter* and family moved to Monroe County. This put an extreme hardship on the Cherokees and Gold was one of the reasons the white settlers wanted to remove them from their land. For a more comprehensive report see the book "**Henry Pratt Family of Greene County, Tennessee**" (2003) by *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* [This book is available on cd as a .pdf file from this author.]
- 1825-1830 *John William Blanton Sr.* and family move from Greene County, Tennessee to Monroe County, Tennessee probably the draw being the newly discovered gold on Cherokee land.
- 1825 Widower, *Joshua Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* and *Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON)* daughter of *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr. & Sarah (LUSTER) Harmon* marries in Monroe County, Tennessee. Since it was customary for the bride to be married in her parent's residence or local church, and *Bethany's* parents have been residents of Monroe County, Tennessee since 1821, then logic dictates that *Joshua* and *Bethanie* were married at her parent's home in Monroe County, Tennessee. Couple this with the fact that Monroe County has just been organized as a legal county in 1819; it is not surprising their marriage record has been lost due to county disorganization. Monroe County was still a backwards county when they were married in 1825. Also, *Joshua's* father; *John Blanton Sr.*, who had moved from Harlan County, Kentucky of the 1820 census to Monroe County, Tennessee via Greene County, Tennessee by the 1830 census would explain why *Joshua* left Greene County, Tennessee after the death of his first wife; *Margaret "Peggy" (McFARLAND)* and moved down to Monroe County, Tennessee.... to be near his parents. Checking the local newspapers at that time might reveal a more accurate marriage date, also checking the deed records should reveal *Joshua and Bethany's* home property giving us a more accurate birth location of their children.
- 1825 Treaties are negotiated with many tribes including the Creeks, who cede land in Georgia and Alabama; the Kansas, who cede land in what became Kansas and Nebraska; and the Arikaras, Mandans, Hidatsas, Crows, Missourias, Pawnees, Mahas and Otos, who agree to keep the peace. The Osage and Kansa Indians also agree to permit road building.

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- 1825 Due to the encroachment of white settlements, the national headquarters of the Cherokee Nation known as Chota in Monroe County, Tennessee is changed to New Chota in northwest Georgia south of Fort Oglethorpe near Calhoun, Georgia.
- 1825 Apr 16 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton and Cynthia (PRATT)* are married in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1825 A young Choctaw named Peter Perkins Pitchlynn (who will become Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation in 1864) leads the first group of Choctaw boys on horseback to the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky (operated by Col. Richard M. Johnson, who will later become vice president of the United States). There many future Choctaw leaders will be educated until 1841, when the Choctaws begin building nine similar academies in the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory for both boys and girls. Choctaws send their most promising graduates to Dartmouth, Union, Yale and other colleges.
- 1825-1826 *Henry Pratt* and family leave Greene County, Tennessee and move to Monroe County, Tennessee; national headquarters of the Cherokee nation. Their move coincides about the same time Nancy's parents and siblings moved to Monroe County around the time of the gold discovery in Monroe County in 1826.
- 1826 *James Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1826 *Ruth A. "Rutha" (BLANTON)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1826-1830 Two unnamed Pratt boys were born to *Henry and Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1826 Gold Rush in Monroe County, Tennessee. More Carters & Harmons moved to Monroe County to take advantage of the gold rush.
- 1827 Cherokees adopt a constitution similar to the U.S. Constitution.
- 1827 Georgia holds fifth land lottery cheating Cherokees, by law, to forfeit their lands or face imprisonment or death.
- 1827 Feb *Elizabeth Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1827 Feb 20 *Nancy (BLANTON)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1828 Sep 8 *Lorenda Pratt* is born to *Henry and Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Regiment 67, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1827 Mar 15 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* buys 100 acres in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1828 Andrew Jackson elected President on the campaign promise to move all the Native Americans west of the Mississippi. Native Americans who helped him in the wars with the Creeks see this as a betrayal of trust.
- 1828 Gold discovered in Georgia. Georgia legislation calls for removal of all Native Americans without restitution to leave the state upon penalty of incarceration or death.
- 1828 Under the provisions of the Cherokee Constitution, John Ross is elected principal chief of the Cherokees, a title he would hold until his death in 1867.
- 1828 Sep 7 *Alexander A. Blanton Sr.* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1829 Andrew Jackson argues before Congress for removal of Indians from the Southeast.

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- 1829 *Stephen "Steve" H. Blanton Sr.* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1829 Crawford County, Missouri was organized from Gasconade County in 1829 and named after Georgia Senator William H. Crawford, former United States Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury. When Crawford County's boundaries extended to include most of Phelps and part of Dent counties, the county seat was located at the mouth of the Little Piney River. The current County Seat of Steelville was laid out in 1836.
- 1829 Jul 24 *Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Caroline (BLANTON)* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1829 Aug 29 Winnebago cede land in the Treaty of the Prairie du Chien. Prairie du Chien located in present Crawford County, Wisconsin. Named after Native Chief meaning prairie of the dog.
- 1830 Apr 26 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* bought 6 head of sheep on Monday, in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1830 May 1 *John Anderson Blanton* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1830 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr.* and family in the 1830 census of Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1830 Jul 10 *Nancy Maria (PRATT)* is born to *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1830 *Henry Pratt* & family (only Pratts in the Monroe County census) are listed in the 1830 census of Regiment 67, Monroe, Tennessee along with the Blantons, Carters and Harmons living near Bat Creek, a few miles outside of Madisonville.
- 1830 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* on tax list of Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1830 *Joshua Blanton* and family in 1830 census of 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1830 Jul 15 Another treaty at Prairie du Chien involves land cessions by the Sauk and Fox Indians.
- 1830 President Andrew Jackson enacts the Indian Removal Act, which calls for permanent removal of southeastern tribes to Indian Territory. This Act calls for the removal of the known 5 civilized tribes of Native Americans, namely; Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Creek nations before 23 May 1838.
- 1830 Sep 27 Choctaws cede lands east of the Mississippi River in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.
- 1830 Oct 25 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* was purchasing items from the estate sale of Daniel Carter who was deceased in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1831-1834 Two-thirds of the members of the Choctaw Nation and many Chickasaws remove to Indian Territory, each receiving as compensation thirteen dollars and a blanket.
- 1831 Mar *Alexander R. Pratt* is born to *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1831 Cherokee Chief John Ross hires William Wirt, prominent attorney of Baltimore to defend them against the Removal Act. Chief Justice John Marshall agreed with the Cherokees that the American Government had no right or authority to take or force the Cherokee peoples off their homeland. Jackson upon hearing the Supreme Court's decision arrogantly ignored the Supreme Court and continued with the removal policy.

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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- 1831 Apr 4 *Elbert Sevier Blanton Sr.* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1832-1840 *John William Blanton Sr.* son of *Thomas Jr. & () Blanton* dies in Monroe County, Tennessee after the sale of his Greene County, Tennessee property holdings in 1832 and before the 1840 census date.
- 1832 In exchange for fifteen thousand dollars Seminoles and Creeks agree to remove to Indian Territory under the Treaty of Payne's Landing.
- 1832 Georgia holds sixth land lottery pushing Cherokees off their land. *Henry Pratt* along with David Harmon, *Jesse Carter Sr.* (Henry's father-in-law) Robert Carter and Jesse Carter Jr. are all participants of this land lottery. Henry states his residence is at Hargrove's District at Oglethorpe in Northwestern Georgia. Henry Pratt draws 160 acres over in Northeast Georgia on the North and South Carolina border. He never paid the \$18.00 filing fee or took possession. Because of Georgian persecution of the Cherokee natives, Henry and family move back to Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1833 *John Allen Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Greene County, Tennessee.
- 1833-1835 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* and family with brother; *Abner & Nancy (STULCE) Blanton* family move from Greene County, Tennessee to 1st St. Louis, Missouri then to 2nd Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri between 1833-1837.
- 1834 Oct 29 *Margaret Serice (BLANTON)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1834 Oct 31 *Sarah Ann (PRATT)* is born to *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1834 The American Fur Company begins operating a trading post at Fort Laramie.
- 1835 Seminoles begin their second war to remain in Florida.
- 1835 *Peter Blanton* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1835 Daniel Henderson established the Henderson Roll taking a census of all Cherokees in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Imperfect and full of errors, in protest many Cherokees did not give their English names and therefore many have been omitted.
- 1835 The Treaty of New Echota was a fraudulent perpetration on the Cherokees. American Government officials knowing they could not get a treaty with the legitimate Tribal leaders of the Cherokee Nation, gathered a few (300) with lesser chiefs and through bribery and coercion, obtained a treaty to remove all the 14,000 to 19,000 Cherokees to the Indian territories. This treaty was immoral, illegal and against Cherokee law and did not have the vote of the Cherokee peoples.
- 1835 Mar 29 After signing of the Treaty, the fraudulent treaty party agrees to leave the Southeast and move to Oklahoma for their own safety.
- 1835 Dec 29 Fraudulent Cherokees cede most of their homeland in the fraudulent Treaty of New Echota.
- 1835 Fraudulent Cherokees arriving in Indian Territory in Oklahoma, report back to the Cherokees still in Tennessee, deplorable conditions. Promised foods, clothing and shelter by the American government fails to be delivered. No housing or provisions for their survival await them in the territories.

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- 1835 Texas declares its independence from Mexico and subsequently organizes the Texas Rangers to lead attacks against the Comanche Natives.
- 1835-1842 Third Seminole War to remain in Florida, led by Chief Osceola.
- 1836 Martin Van Buren is elected President after serving as Jackson's Vice-president. Vows to continue Indian Removal policy.
- 1836 May 17 Jackson using his political influence in Congress ratified the fraudulent New Echota Treaty, which passed Congress by one vote...contrary to the protests from the Cherokee delegation.
- 1836 Pueblo Indians defeat the Mexican militia in the Battle of La Canada, New Mexican territory.
- 1837 Jan 4 *John Absalom Pratt* is born to *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1837 Feb 23 *Henry Hubert Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1837 *Sarah "Sally" A. (BLANTON)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1838 Mar *Martha Catherine (BLANTON)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 67th Regiment District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1838 May 26 General Winfield Scott under orders to round up the Cherokees, using 7000 soldiers and volunteers builds stockades to confine the Cherokees in George and Tennessee.
- 1838 Jul 2 *Henry Pratt* along with Lewis Carter and 8 other men establish the Ebenezer Meeting House and Camp Ground on Bat Creek in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1838 Aug *Mary Elizabeth (PRATT)* is born to *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1838 Jul-Sep *Henry Pratt* and family abducted by bayonet and forcibly taken to a concentration camp most likely the Hiawasse Agency at Calhoun in McMinn County, Tennessee due to his Cherokee ancestry.
- 1838 Sep 3 *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* purchases 40 acres outside of Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin Co., MO.
- 1838 Sep 20 Richard Taylor's group departs from Chattanooga, Tennessee with *Henry Pratt* & family and 1029 other Cherokees, soldiers, ministers and doctors known as the "northern route" of the "Trail of Tears".
- 1839 Peter Hildebrand's group broke off from Richard Taylor's group and leaves south of Potosi going through Licking, Houston joining another group in Marshfield.
- 1839 Mar *Vincent Blanton* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in 27th District, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1839 Mar 1 Richard Taylor's group arrives at Caledonia, then on to Potosi following the route of what is now called Highway 8 to Huzzah and Steelville camped on the Little Piney River on the 8th of March according to the journals.
- 1839 Mar 1-8th *Henry Pratt* and family "jump the trail" and head north 10 to 12 miles in Crawford County, Missouri and settled eventually in Richwoods Township in Washington County, then eventually moved to Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Township, in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1839 Mar *William Wesley Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri.

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- 1839 *Rinard & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberlin* family befriends the *Henry Pratt* family. It should be noted here that *Rinard Kimberlin* was a good neighbor and a friend to the *Henry Pratt* family. When the Pratts arrived in eastern Crawford County in March 1839, they moved into Richwoods Twp, Washington, Missouri after their ordeal on the "Trail of Tears". They settled near the Kimberlins and struck up a good friendship. When *James Pratt* married Rinard's daughter, *Catherine* in 1847-1848, James probably told Rinard he wanted a piece of property near Rinard or Rinard's daughter Catherine told James to buy some property near her parents either way, **it was against** the law for Indians to own or buy land. Rinard bought the land; the James Pratt family settled on from Firmin Desloge and 3 weeks later sold 24 acres of the 105 acres to his son-in-law, James Pratt. Rinard did the same for his daughter, Mary after she married Alexander Pratt...James' brother. After James became a property owner it was easier for James and Alexander to pass themselves off as a white man even though they were ½ Cherokee. This led to Alexander's land purchase two years later in May 1856 from William & Martha Hughes, which he later sold to the Ambrose Marion Pennock family from Ohio in 1859.
- 1839 Jun 22 The main body of the Cherokee peoples arrive in the Indian lands known as Oklahoma, assassinate John Ridge and Elias Boudinot, leaders of the fraudulent Cherokee treaty party, for treason as a result of their roles in ceding tribal lands in the Southeast. (The Treaty of New Echota)
- 1840 *Henry Pratt & family* are living in the Richwoods Township of the 1840 census of Washington County, Missouri.
- 1840 *Joshua Blanton* and family in the 1840 census of District 27, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1840 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr.* and family in the 1840 census of Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1840 *Margaret (**BLANTON**)* is born to *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (**HARMON**) Blanton* in District 27, Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1840 Jun 22 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* sells his 40 acres outside of Sullivan.
- 1840-1848 *Jesse Carter Sr. & family* move from Monroe County, Tennessee to McMinn County, Tennessee to take advantage of cheap Indian land.
- 1840's The wealthiest Choctaw, Robert M. Jones, owns five large Red River plantations (the largest more than five thousand acres), more than five hundred slaves, a trading house at Doaksville and a number of steamboats.
- 1841 Jesuit Fr. Pierre De Smet begins the St. Mary's Mission in what becomes Montana, to launch the mission era in the Northwest.
- 1841 Sep 4 Senator Thomas Hart Benton helped to sponsor a bill known as the Pre-emption Act of 1841. At \$1.25 an acre anyone (except Native Americans) could purchase up to 160 acres of Missouri land. *Henry Pratt* buys no land.
- 1841-1842 *Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**)* daughter of *Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt* and *Henry H. Hansell Sr.* son of *William & Elizabeth (**McGINNIS**) Hansell* are married most likely in Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1840-1841 *Martin Van Buren Blanton* is born to *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton* in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1841 Oct 20 *Matilda Jane "Janie" (**PRATT**)* is born to *Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt* in Richwoods Twp, Washington, Missouri.

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- 1841-1850 *Henry Pratt* dies. Death of Henry Pratt calculated to be between 1841 and 1850. This deduction derived from the presumption that he conceived his last known child; *Matilda Jane "Janie" (PRATT)* who was born according to her death certificate 20 October 1841. Going back 9 months from her birth date indicates he was alive February 1841 if... Matilda's birth date is correct. His son; *Alexander R. Pratt* told his son; *Carac Frances Pratt* who told his son; *Orville Carac Pratt*, who told me that Alexander had gone to California in 1848-1849 during the gold rush. Maybe Henry went with the group but he does not show up in the 1850 Crawford County census like Alexander does. I have checked available newspapers for that time period but have found no references to Henry Pratt. One of my mentor researchers; *Geraldine Mabel (MILLER) Reed* said that she thought she had seen a court report in one of those books in the Crawford County Courthouse that mentioned *Nancy Pratt*, widow of *Henry Pratt* receiving a cash allotment from the County Court. She could not remember where it was or anything more about it. I looked for it when I was at the Courthouse but there are so many books...hundreds that have not been documented but just piled up in the vault I could not cover all of them and had no time, or luck in finding any information about *Henry Pratt*. Therefore, *Henry Pratt* could have died on his way to California or on his return to Missouri. After his death, his widow, *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* moved from Richwoods Twp, Washington, Missouri to be near her daughter; *Susanna Rebecca (PRATT) Hansel* family in Boone Twp, Crawford, Missouri. In 1852, widow Nancy married widower, *Abraham Absalom Blanton* in Crawford County.
- 1842-1847 *Joshua Blanton* and family moved from District 27, Monroe County, Tennessee to Scott County, Missouri.
- 1842-1848 Widow, *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* moves from Richwoods Twp to Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO.
- 1843 The first mission school for Eskimos is established by the Russian-Greek Orthodox Church.
- 1843-1850 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr.* and family move from Monroe County, Tennessee to Washington Twp, Independence, Arkansas.
- 1844 The Cherokee Advocate newspaper begins publication in Oklahoma; federal troops confiscate the press for printing the truth.
- 1844 Jonathan E. Dwight, a Choctaw educated at Yale, begins teaching at Spencer Academy in the Choctaw Nation. The academy teaches English and Latin, arithmetic, geography, natural philosophy, United States history and algebra.
- 1845 Klamath Indians and troops under leadership of Lt. John C. Fremont clash in early fighting over California.
- 1846 *Elizabeth (BLANTON)* daughter of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* married *John D. Allen Sr.* son of *Robert & Martha (KERR) Allen* in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.
- 1847 Mormons settle a state they call Deseret, but which becomes Utah, attempting to forge friendly relations with the resident Ute and Paiute Indians.
- 1847-1849 *Joshua Blanton* and family moved from Scott County, Missouri to Fredericktown, Saint Michael Twp, Madison County, Missouri.
- 1847 Feb 20 *Mary Ann (BLANTON)* is born *Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* in Fredericktown, Saint Michael Twp, Madison County, Missouri.

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- 1847 Jan 19 Indians at Taos Pueblo revolt against white leadership killing New Mexico Gov. Charles Bent, but subsequently suffer significant losses when troops attack the Pueblo church where Indian men, women and children had sought refuge.
- 1847 Nov 29 Cayuse Indians attack the Whitman Mission, killing Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and a dozen others, including women and children. The Indians capture fifty-six prisoners, but subsequently release them.
- 1847-1848 *James Pratt son of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt married Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) daughter of Rinard & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberlin in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.*
- 1848 Jan 24 John Marshall discovers gold in California leading to a subsequent rush to the area by thousands of miners and the ultimate destruction of California Indians; many tribes become extinct within a matter of years.
- 1848 Mar 16 *Lorenda (**PRATT**) daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt married Samuel Campbell son of David & Bathsheba (**CARTER**) Campbell in Crawford County, Missouri.*
- 1848 The first commercial whalers arrive in what becomes Alaska.
- 1848 *Jesse Carter Sr.* donates one acre to build a Methodist Episcopal Church on Big Mouse Creek in McMinn County, Tennessee.
- 1848 Bureau of Indian Affairs transfers from the U.S. Department of War and merges with the U. S. Department of the Interior.
- 1849 Aug *Jesse Carter Sr. son of Levi Sr. & Susanna (**ANDERSON**) Carter and spouse of Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter daughter of Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (**CHOULYN**) Harmon died in McMinn County, Tennessee. He leaves 3 of his 10 children out of his will. All three children married Native Americans including Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt.*
- 1849-1850 *Joshua Blanton and family moved from Fredericktown, Saint Michael Twp, Madison County, Missouri to Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.*
- 1849 Oct 14 *Nancy Maria (**PRATT**) daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt married Alexander A. Blanton Sr. son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton in Crawford County, Missouri.*
- 1849 Nov 3 *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton buys 160 acres in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri. Absalom establishes several mines and builds the Blanton Mansion. This home is three stories and has 13 rooms and a curved banister.*
- 1849 Nov 8 *James Blanton son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton married 1st Margaret Green (**GOFORTH**) daughter of Willoughby & Martha (**MARQUIS**) Goforth in Washington County, Missouri.*
- 1849 Widow, *Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt and family move next door to her daughter, Susanna Rebecca (**PRATT**) Hansel near Carter Creek, Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.*
- 1850 Sep 10 *William Joshua Blanton is born to Joshua and Bethanie "Nancy" (**HARMON**) Blanton in Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.*
- 1850 Oct 8 Widow, *Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt in the 1850 census of Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.*
- 1850 Oct 30 *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton in the 1850 census of Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.*
- 1850 Oct 30 *Joshua Blanton and family in the 1840 census of Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.*

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- 1850 Nov 21 *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" Sr.* and family in the 1850 census of Washington Twp, Independence County, Arkansas.
- 1850-1852 *Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* wife of *Abraham Absalom Blanton* dies between the 1850 census date of 30 Oct 1850 and the 2nd marriage date of her widowed husband of 21 Mar 1852. Buried probably in Blanton Cemetery at Hamilton Hollow.
- 1851 Jan 25 Large inventory sale at the estate of *Jesse Carter Sr.* in McMinn County, Tennessee.
- 1851 Plains tribes cede enormous amounts of territory in the Treaty of Fort Laramie, which also gives a right-of-way to the Oregon-California-Mormon Road.
- 1852 Mar 21 *Widow, Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* relic of *Henry Pratt* and daughter of *Jesse Sr. & Susanna (HARMON) Carter* and widower, *Abraham Absalom Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* and spouse of *Cynthia Ann (PRATT)* are married in Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1853-1857 The United States negotiates fifty-two different treaties and subsequently acquires 157 million acres of Indian lands; it ultimately fails to honor any of the treaties, but retains the land.
- 1853 Mar 24 *Mary Elizabeth (PRATT)* daughter of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* marries *Elbert Sevier "Alford" Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Washington County, Missouri. Double wedding: *John Absalom Pratt* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* marries *Mary Elizabeth Caroline "Betsy" (BLANTON)* daughter of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Washington County, Missouri on same day.
- 1853 Oct 29 *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt Blanton* sells her inheritance from her father's estate to her brother, *John Carter* for \$80.00 in Monroe County, Tennessee.
- 1854 Oregon territorial legislature makes it illegal to sell firearms or ammunition to Indians, and people with at least one-half or more of Indian blood are prohibited from testifying in court.
- 1855-58 Fourth Seminole War.
- 1856 *Alexander R. Pratt* began courting *Rhinard & Frances (PETERS) Kimberlin's* daughter; *Mary* sometime before his property transaction on 22 May 1856. This relationship with the Kimberlin family goes way back to 1839 when *Mary's* father; *Rhinard* befriended the Henry Pratt family when the Pratts moved to Richwoods Twp, Washington, Missouri from Crawford County, Missouri. *Alex's* brother, *James* had already married *Rhinard's* daughter *Catherine* and *Alex* knew *Mary* from associating with the Kimberlin family. *Alex* moved from Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri where he had been living with his mother and siblings in the 1850 census to Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri near *Anthonies Mill* where the *Rhinard Kimberlin* family lived when he purchased 40 acres on 22 May 1856.
- 1856 Jun 28 *Alexander R. Pratt* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* married *Mary (KIMBERLIN)* daughter of *Rinard & Frances Jane (PETERS) Kimberlin* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1857 Jan 5 *Matilda Jane "Janie" (PRATT)* daughter of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* marries *Henry Hubert Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1857 Nov 27 *Mary Ellen (PRATT)* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.

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- 1858-1859 *John Allen Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* marries *Margaret Serice (BLANTON)* daughter of *Joshua & Bethany "Nancy" (HARMON)* Blanton probably in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1860 Civil War: U.S. Troops attempt to get the Cherokees to fight for the Union. Confederates also solicit the Cherokees. Chief John Ross wants to stay neutral but factions of the Cherokee people fight for both sides and both Confederates and Union forces destroy whole villages in Indian Territory.
- 1860-1870 *Martin Van Buren Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* dies. Maybe in the Civil War.
- 1860 Mar *Michael Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri and died before 1870.
- 1860 May 12 Paiutes attack miners near pyramid Lake (Nevada) setting off subsequent reprisals.
- 1860 Jul 25 *Abraham Absalom & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt Blanton* are in the 1860 census of Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1860 Jul 26 *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* are in the 1860 census near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1861 Sep 16 *Stonewall Jackson Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1861-1863 Apaches led by Mangas Coloradas and Cochise fight numerous battles with U.S. troops.
- 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signs the Homestead Act, opening western lands to settlement.
- 1862-1863 Santee Sioux revolt killing Minnesota settlers; troops arrest and subsequently hang thirty-eight Indians in a mass execution in Mankato, Minnesota.
- 1864 Jan 6 Troops led by Kit Carson attack and subdue Navajos in the Battle of Canyon de Chelly, subsequently removing the Indians to Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in an exodus known as The Long Walk.
- 1864 Kit Carson and New Mexico Volunteers clash with Kiowas and Comanches in the Battle of Adobe Walls.
- 1864 John Bozeman and John Jacobs pioneer a road from Fort Fetterman (Wyoming) to Virginia City (Montana) called the Bozeman Trail, but better known as the Bloody Bozeman for the conflict that occurred with various tribes, particularly the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho people.
- 1864 Nov 29 Col. John Chivington leads a dawn attack on the peaceful village of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians led by Black Kettle at Sand Creek, Colorado, killing more than one hundred. Known as the Sand Creek Massacre, this sets off retaliatory raids by the Cheyenne and Sioux tribes.
- 1865 The Bloody Year on the Plains begins 7 January when Cheyenne Indians raid Julesburg, Colorado, in retaliation for Sand Creek. Subsequent fighting breaks out all across the northern and southern Plains.
- 1865 Jun 6 *Frances "Fannie" Minerva (PRATT)* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1865 Ute Indians led by Black Hawk begin what becomes a twenty-year conflict with Mormons.

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- 1860-1865 *Susanna (**HARMON**) Carter*, daughter of *Hance Peter Sr. & Margaret (**CHOULYN**) Harmon* and spouse of *Jesse Carter Sr.* son of *Levi Sr. & Susanna (**ANDERSON**) Carter* and mother of *Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton* died between the 7 June 1860 census date and 4 September 1865 date administrator to her estate was appointed by the court near Sweet Water Post Office, District 1, McMinn, Tennessee, United States.
- 1866-68 The First Sioux War, known as Red Cloud's War, takes place, fought primarily in the Powder River basin (Wyoming and Montana) over the Bozeman Trail.
- 1866 U.S. military establishes three forts to protect the Bozeman Trail: 13 July-Fort Phil Kearny; 28 July-Fort Reno; 12 August-Fort C.F. Smith.
- 1866 Dec 21 Eighty troops led by Lt. William J. Fetterman die in an attack by Sioux just north of Fort Phil Kearny.
- 1867 Oct 8 *William Wesley Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton* marries *Mary Ann (**BLANTON**)* daughter of *Joshua & Bethany "Nancy" (**HARMON**) Blanton* in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1868 Navajos are allowed to return to their homelands, ending The Long Walk and their exile in southern New Mexico at Bosque Redondo.
- 1868 May 9 *Paulina Perlina "Lina" (**PRATT**)* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1868 Nov 6 Treaty negotiations at Fort Laramie lead to abandonment of forts Phil Kearny, Reno and C.F. Smith along the Bozeman Trail. Troops leave the forts, which are subsequently burned by Sioux Indians and their allies.
- 1868 Nov 27 Lt. Col. George A. Custer leads troops against Cheyenne fighters in the Battle of the Washita; many of Custer's troops are killed when he abandons them during the battle.
- 1869 President Andrew Johnson establishes the Santee Sioux Reservation near Niobrara, Nebraska.
- 1869 Brig. Gen. Ely Parker, a Seneca, takes over as commissioner of Indian Affairs, the first Indian to hold that position; he serves until 1871.
- 1869 Chief Metis along the Red River in Canada engage in the First Riel Rebellion.
- 1869 Sep 6 *Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1870 Aug 16 *Abraham Absalom & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton* in 1870 census of Johnson Township, Washington County, Missouri at the Blanton mansion.
- 1870 Aug 16 *Alexander R. & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt* is in 1870 census near Osage Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1871 U.S. Congress declares an end to all treaty making with Indian tribes.
- 1872 Persuasion by Gen. Oliver O. Howard leads Chiricahua Apaches to move to a reservation.
- 1872 Mar 4 *Abraham Absalom Blanton* dies at his mansion in Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri. *Abraham Absalom Blanton, Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt Blanton's* second husband died on March 4, 1872 in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri, United States. Date and place stated in the Deed of Washington, Missouri, Deed Record Book "U", page 322. There should be an article about him in the Sullivan or Potosi newspapers at that time. As a landowner and business man with one of the largest mansions in the Washington County area, and he employed a great many of the locals, he was a man of importance and his death should not have gone unnoticed by the local community.

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- 1872 May 3 Widow, *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt Blanton* sells part of the homestead (160 acres) to the Missouri Smelting and Mineral Land Company for \$300.00.
- 1873 Jan 27 *Nancy Mariah (PRATT) Blanton* daughter of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* spouse of *Alexander A. Blanton Sr.* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* died in Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1873 Modocs in northern California and southern Oregon begin a war, murdering peace commissioners.
- 1873 Mar *Rhinehart "Rinard" Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1873 The government establishes the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Indian Agencies in northwestern Nebraska to distribute annuities to the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. Investigation of Fraud at the Red Cloud Agency. We found the system of keeping accounts at the Red Cloud Agency exceedingly loose and defective, and for much of this the Indian Office is justly censurable. It is only within the last few weeks that the Government has supplied the books to the agent and required the adoption of a system calculated to exhibit clearly the state of his accounts. Prior to that time the agent furnished his own books, and made all his accounts in a loose and irregular manner; and when his agency expired, he carried off all the books and papers as his private property. *Frank Leslie's Mustrated Weekly*, 6 November 1875, 130-2
- 1873 July 3 *Alexander Pratt* begins to buy up the estate of *Abraham Absalom Blanton* from the heirs. This includes the old Pratt homestead and log cabin where his wife, *Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* and his mother, *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt Blanton* live.
- 1874 Red River War breaks out involving Kiowas and Comanches with major fights, including the Battle of Adobe Walls on 27 June where buffalo hunters repel seven hundred Kiowas, Comanches and Cheyennes, using their powerful buffalo guns (Sharps .50 caliber known as Big 50s).
- 1874 Lt. Col. George A. Custer leads a military reconnaissance of the Black Hills finding gold in the process. The land, though set aside for the Sioux, is subsequently the scene of a rush of encroaching gold miners.
- 1874-1876 Second Sioux War, known as Crazy Horse's War.
- 1875 May Sioux chiefs reject a six million dollar government offer for the Black Hills.
- 1875 Sep Thousands of members of the Sioux Nation watch as the Allison Commission fails to purchase the Black Hills.
- 1875 Oct 17 Widower *Alexander A. Blanton Sr.* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* marries 2nd widow *Catherine (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* daughter of *Rinard E. & Frances Jane (PETERS) Kimberlin* and relic of *James Pratt* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* in Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1875 Nov 17 Widow, *Nancy (CARTER) Pratt Blanton* daughter of *Jesse Sr. & Susanna (HARMON) Carter* and spouse 1st of *Henry Pratt* and 2nd *Abraham Absalom Blanton* died at the Blanton Mansion in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1876 When Sitting Bull indicates he wanted to purchase supplies from the Fort Peck Indian Agency, Montana Territory, the response from the agent is: "Inform Sitting Bull that the only condition of peace is his surrender, when he will be treated as a prisoner of war. Issue no rations except after such surrender, and when fully satisfied that the Indians can be held at the agency."

HENRY PRATT FAMILY OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Make early preparation to defend the agency stores and property. The military will cooperate as far as possible."

- 1876 Jan 14 *Alexander R. Pratt* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* posts an Administrator's Bond for his mother's estate in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1876 Nov 8 *Minnie (PRATT)* is born to *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* near Rock Spring Post Office, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1876-1880 *Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt*, daughter of *Rinard E. & Frances Jane (PETERS) Kimberlin* and wife of *Alexander R. Pratt* died in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington Co., MO. Maybe from childbirth complications.
- 1876 Canadian government passes the Canadian Indian Act, defining Indian policy and allowing Indians to become Canadian citizens by renouncing rights and privileges as Indians.
- 1876 Jun 17 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors defeat Gen. George Crook's troops in the Battle of the Rosebud.
- 1876 Jun 25 Lt. Col. George A Custer and his entire troop of cavalymen are killed by a combined force of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors in the Battle of the Little Bighorn (called the Battle of the Greasy Grass by the Sioux). Subsequent battles include the Battle of Warbonnet Creek, 17 July, where the Fifth Cavalry defeats the Cheyenne's; the Battle of Slim Buttes, 9 September, where troops attack Crazy Horse's village; and the Dull Knife Battle, 25 November, on Red Fork of the Powder River, when Lt. Ranald Mackenzie attacks the Cheyenne camp of Dull Knife.
- 1877 Washington Territory establishes fishing seasons, with some periods of the year closed.
- 1877 Nez Perce war breaks out and the tribe flees toward Canada, engaging in fighting with U.S. troops at White Bird Canyon, 17 June; the Clear Water River, 11-12 July; the Big Hole, 9 August; Camas Meadows, 20 August; Canyon Creek, 13 September; Cow Island, 23 September and culminating in a siege at Bear Paw 30 September, 5 October where Chief Joseph surrendered the tribe just forty miles short of refuge in Canada.
- 1878 Oregon Territory establishes fishing seasons.
- 1878 U.S. Congress authorizes Indian Police units.
- 1878 Mar 3 *Mary Ellen (PRATT)* daughter of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* marries *James Franklin Studdard* son of *James William & Betsy "Bacey" Susie Nancy (PRUITT) Studdard* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1879 Following the Meeker Massacre in northern Colorado, Utes relinquish their Colorado lands and move to a reservation in Utah. COLORADO-The Utes, of Colorado, have agreed to give up the San Juan mining region, about which there has long been contention between miners and Indians.-Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly. 4 October 1873, 59-4
- 1879 Carlisle Indian School opens.
- 1879 Cheyenne peoples break away from their reservation in Indian Territory, fleeing to their homeland on the northern plains; they are subsequently captured and incarcerated at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Ultimately a reservation for some is established in Montana Territory.
- 1879 Groups proclaiming their friendship for Indians organize including the Indian Rights Association, National Indian Defense Association, Indian Protection Committee and the Women's National Indian Association.

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- 1879-1885 Apaches continue resistance with raids led by Victorio, Nana and Geronimo.
- 1880 Jun 10 *Alexander R. Pratt* in the 1880 census of Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1881 *Joshua Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* and spouse of *Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* daughter of *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" & Sarah (LUSTER) Harmon* died near Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1883 U.S. Congress approves the Court of Indian Offenses, giving tribal units authority to administer justice for all but major crimes.
- 1883 Congress outlaws Northwest Indian potlatch ceremonies.
- 1884 Feb 21 *Stonewall Jackson Pratt* son of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* marries *Mary "Mollie" Louise (TAYLOR) daughter of Dr. Archibald Ritchie & Marie "Mary" Louise (ROUSSIN) Taylor* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1885 Major Crimes Act subsequently gives federal courts jurisdiction over major Indian offenses.
- 1885 May 6 *Frances "Fannie" Minerva (PRATT)* daughter of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* married 1st *Jackman Whiteside* son of *James and Dorothy Eleanor (JOHNSTON) Whiteside* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1885 Aug 20 Widower, *Alexander R. Pratt* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* married *Miss Catherine Adaline (DUGAN) daughter of Jeremiah "Jerry" & Louisa A. (PILANT) Dugan* in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1885 Metis along Canada's Red River engage in the Second Riel Rebellion.
- 1886 Geronimo surrenders, but subsequently escapes. He is then recaptured (4 September) and the Apache Wars effectively end.
- 1887 Feb 3 *Paulina Perlina "Lina" (PRATT)* daughter of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* marries *Thomas "Tom" Livey Callahan* son of *James Madison & Annie Elizabeth "Betsy" (YODER) Callahan* in Washington County, Missouri.
- 1887 Feb 8 President Grover Cleveland approves the Dawes Severalty Act, named for its sponsor, Massachusetts Senator Henry Dawes. The act dissolves Indian tribes as legal entities and divides tribal lands, giving heads of Indian households 160 acres, single Indian people 80 acres, and minor Indians 40 acres: The Indians agree to farm their land and that they will not sell it to non-Indians for at least twenty-five years. Subsequent changes in the act weaken it.
- 1888 Apr 5 *Frances "Fannie" Minerva (PRATT) Whiteside* daughter of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* married 2nd *David McDonald Campbell* son of *Joseph & Milbury "Milly" (NORRIS) Campbell* in Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1888 Oct 13 *Carac Francis Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Catherine "Katie" Adeline (DUGAN) Pratt* in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1889 The Ghost Dance religion, first taught by Paiute Wovoka, begins.
- 1889 Congress purchases two million acres in Indian Territory to be subsequently granted to homesteaders in the first Oklahoma land run.
- 1890 U.S. Bureau of the Census declares there is no longer an American Frontier.
- 1890 *Bethanie "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* daughter of *Stephen William Nicholas "Nick" & Sarah (LUSTER) Harmon* and spouse of *Joshua Blanton* son of *John William Sr. & Rebecca (HOBBS) Blanton* died near Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin County, Missouri.

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- 1890 Jun 27 *John Absalom Pratt Sr.* son of *Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* and spouse of *Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Caroline (BLANTON) Pratt* daughter of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* died in Sullivan, Meramec Twp, Franklin, Missouri.
- 1890 Dec 29 The Seventh Cavalry kills 150 Sioux men, women and children in the Wounded Knee Massacre.
- 1892 Mar *Cleveland "Cleve" Pratt* is born to *Alexander R. & Catherine "Katie" Adeline (DUGAN) Pratt* in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1892 *Catherine Adeline (DUGAN) Pratt*, daughter of *Jeremiah "Jerry" & Louisa A. (PILANT) Dugan* and wife of *Alexander R. Pratt* died in Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1892 Oct 8 *Alexander R. Pratt* sells the Pratt homestead in Hamilton Hollow to *Ross M. Crow* for \$1000. States he is single.
- 1893 Jan 29 *Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt* son of *Alexander R. & Mary (KIMBERLIN) Pratt* married *Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) daughter of François Columbiere Columbus "Lum" & Cynthia N. (TALBOTT) Missé* at Vilander, Liberty Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1893 Dec 1 *Columbus "Lum" Benjamin Alexander Pratt* is born to *Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) Pratt* at Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1894 Nov 23 *Jesse "Jess" Lee Pratt* is born to *Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) Pratt* at Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1895 Bannock and Shoshone Indians protest hunting license provisions in Wyoming, taking the case to the state supreme court, which affirms the state's ownership of wild game.
- 1897 Oil is discovered in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and the American Government dissolves all treaties with the Native Americans.
- 1897 Jun 28 *Albert "Al" Paris Pratt* is born to *Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) Pratt* at Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1897-1900 *John Allen Blanton* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* and spouse of *Margaret Serice (BLANTON) daughter of Joshua & Bethany "Nancy" (HARMON) Blanton* died in Perry Twp, Saint Francois County, Missouri.
- 1898 Six soldiers die in an attack by Chippewa Indians at the Battle of Leech Lake, Minnesota.
- 1898 Congress approves the Curtis Act that dissolves tribal governments, requires Indians to submit to allotment, and authorizes civil government for Indian Territory.
- 1899 Jul 4 *Virgil Ranson Pratt* is born to *Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) Pratt* at Hamilton Hollow, Johnson Twp, Washington, Missouri.
- 1900 Jun 19 Census states, *Alexander R. Pratt* with sons, *Ryneard, Cleveland* and *Carrie* have moved to Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1902 Jan 3 *Henry Arthur "Art" Pratt* is born to *Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (MISSEY) Pratt* at Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1902 *Mary Elizabeth (PRATT) daughter of Henry & Nancy (CARTER) Pratt* wife of *Elbert "Albert" Sevier Blanton Sr.* son of *Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (PRATT) Blanton* died in Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.

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- 1902 Aug 2 William Wesley Blanton son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton spouse of Mary Ann (**BLANTON**) daughter of Joshua & Bethany "Nancy" (**HARMON**) Blanton died in Bonne Terre, Perry Twp, Saint Francois County, Missouri.
- 1904 Aug 8 Ruth Jane (**PRATT**) is born to Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**) Pratt at Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1906 May 16 Minnie (**PRATT**) daughter of Alexander R. & Mary (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt married 2nd George William Richter son of James Franklin & Sarah "Sallie" Ellen (**LAMKIN**) Richter in Clayton, Central Twp, Saint Louis (County), Missouri.
- 1907 Jun 12 Mary Center (**PRATT**) is born to Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**) Pratt at Vilander, Liberty Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1907 Nov 16 After taking all the Native American's lands promised to the Native Americans, The American Government creates the State of Oklahoma.
- 1908 Jan 21 Henry Hubert Blanton son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton spouse of Matilda Jane "Janie" (**PRATT**) daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt died in Steelville, Meramec Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1910 May 2 1910-census states Alexander R. Pratt is living with his son, Henry Winslow Pratt and family in Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri. Henry & Laura (**MISSEY**) Pratt are living on a farm on Crows Creek owned by her father, Francis Columbus Missey.
- 1910 Sep 20 Matilda Jane "Janie" (**PRATT**) daughter of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt and spouse of Henry Hubert Blanton son of Abraham Absalom & Cynthia (**PRATT**) Blanton died in Sligo, Short Bend Twp, Dent County, Missouri.
- 1910 Oct 1 Cleveland "Cleve" Pratt son of Alexander R. & Catherine "Katie" Adeline (**DUGAN**) Pratt died in Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1911 Dec 17 Orville Hayes Pratt is born to Henry Winslow "Win" & Mary Laura Magdalene (**MISSEY**) Pratt on Crow's Creek, Boone Twp, Crawford County, Missouri.
- 1912 Mar 28 Catherine (**KIMBERLIN**) Pratt Blanton daughter of Rinard E. & Frances Jane (**PETERS**) Kimberlin and spouse of 1st James Pratt and 2nd Alexander A. Blanton Sr. died near Anthonies Mill, Johnson Twp, Washington County, Missouri.
- 1912 Alexander R. Pratt son of Henry & Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt dies while visiting his daughter, Polina (**PRATT**) Callahan outside of Cherryville, Crawford County, Missouri. He is buried in the Cherryville Cemetery.

Over 100 treaties with the Cherokees were entered and broken by the United States government. The Cherokees were promised by the American government as long as the "grass grows and the sun shines" their land in Oklahoma would be theirs.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
2003 Revised 2nd Edition 2013

Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

Page 1

4	Columbus B A Pratt	b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	8	Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt	b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~	16	Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt	b. March 1831 d. 1912	32	Henry Pratt	b. 1800-1803
2	Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt	b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.	9	Mary L M Missé Missey	b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	17	Mary Kimberlin	b. 1835 d. 1876-1880	33	Nancy Carter	b. 1802-1803
1	Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.	b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach	10	Judge J M Johnson Sr.	b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	18	François C Missé Missey	b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916	34	Rimehart E. Kimberlin	b. 1805
6	Peter Conley Brown	b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdale~	11	Mary Jane T Barton	b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~	19	Cynthia N. Talbot	b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896	35	Frances Jane Peters	b. 1804
3	Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown	b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~	12	John A. Brown	b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~	20	Martin Johnson	b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859	36	Jean B Missé Missey	b. 28 May 1821
7	Olga Elmira O'Daniel	b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~	13	Obedience "Bedie" Lackey	b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~	21	Comfort Osborn	b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877	37	Marie Françoise Piquette	b. 4 January 1826
			14	James Leonidas O'Daniel	b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~	22	William "Billy" Barton	b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922	38	Benjamin "Ben" Talbott	b. 15 June 1811
			15	Daisy Dean Bell	b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~	23	Harriet King	b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920	39	Laura Farris	b. 12 February 1818
						24	Joseph Brown Jr.	b. 1827 d.	40	Benjamin Johnson	b. 31 March 1775
						25	Catherine	b. 1825 d.	41	Amelia	b. 23 November 1769
						26	William Stevenson Lackey	b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893	42	William Osborn	b. 4 July 1777
						27	Nancy Basket Moseley	b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875	43	Rebecca Richmond	b. 1784
						28	Stephen C. O'Daniel	b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881	44	John Milton Barton	b. 1799
						29	Elizabeth Ellen Gordon	b. 1840 d. 1872	45	Sophia Keitle	b. 1807
						30	John Franklin "Frank" Bell	b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893	46	Rev. Jonathan King	b. 20 December 1800
						31	Hettie M. Jackson	b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902	47	Mary Holt	b. 29 April 1808
									48	Joseph Brown Sr.	b. 1785
									49	Lydia Hammonds	b. 1792
									50		b.
									51		b.
									52	Enos Lackey	b. 1797
									53	Luvina Beard	b. 1804
									54		b.
									55		b.
									56	Alexander O'Daniel Sr.	b. Abt 1749
									57	Annie Keathley	b. 18 July 1782
									58	John Gordon	b. 1813
									59	Nancy	b. 1820
									60		b.
									61		b.
									62	Alexander Jackson	b. 1840
									63	Mariah "Mary" Ledbetter	b. 1840

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with a total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute

GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

1. Do not give copies or reproduce the information you received from the compiler or author without written permission.
2. In your research efforts if you are able to advance the research, then reciprocate by sharing your research information with the compiler.
3. Use the information you receive as a starting point for your research of your families.
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6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researchers or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.
7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.
8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?
9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.
10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things **AND** spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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